Foreign
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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-201
Wednesday
17 October 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Further on Jerusalem Committee Proceedings

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives, Comments

JN1510084190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Rabat at dawn today to participate in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee. He was received at the airport by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and Syrian Ambassador to Morocco 'Ali Hasan and members of the embassy staff.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' made a statement at the airport in which he said he is pleased to attend the Jerusalem Committee meeting. He added: The delicate circumstances through which our nation is passing call for consultations and the exchange of opinions among the Islamic member states of the committee, especially in the wake of the savage massacre which the Israeli occupation authorities have committed against the sons of the Palestinian people in al-Haram al-Sharif [al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock compound] in Jerusalem; the massacre which was denounced by Syria, the Islamic states, and the world community, and which was condemned by the UN Security Council because it conflicts with international laws and norms and affirms Israel's aggressive and expansionist character.

'Aziz Meets Filali, PLO's Qaddumi

JN1510191790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat, 15 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, [Iraqi] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred here today with Abdellatif Filali, [Moroccan] minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

They talked about Iraqi-Moroccan relations, and stressed the need for uninterrupted contacts to advance common interests and pan-Arab fortunes. They exchanged views on developments in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. Their meeting also took up the grisly massacre committed by Zionist forces [in Jerusalem] and explored Arab reaction. The ministers considered the agenda of the Jerusalem Committee in the interests of a more cohesive Arab-Islamic front to counter the Zionist policies flying in the face of the Arab, Muslim, and international communities.

Tariq 'Aziz also met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, to review American-Zionist-Western plots against the Arab nation, the repercussions of their military buildup in Najd and Hejaz, and the ongoing Zionist aggression against the Palestinian Arab people, and ways of tackling pan-Arab challenges.

Tariq 'Aziz and Faruq Qaddumi are in Morocco for the Jerusalem Committee meetings set to get under way here, today to examine the latest Zionist atrocity, and how the Palestinians and sacred shrines in Palestine can best be protected.

Syria's Al-Shar' Meets Ministers

JN1610211990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat, 15 Oct (SANA)—On the sidelines of the Jerusalem Committee meetings, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the presence of 'Ali Hasan, Syria's ambassador to Morocco, and the Saudi ambassador in Morocco.

The meeting centered on the positive developments in Lebanon following the termination of the state of rebellion in the eastern area.

They also discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories following the brutal massacre committed by Israeli occupation authorities in the al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem.

Al-Shar' met with Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in the Kingdom of Morocco. 'Ali Hasan, Syrian ambassador in Morocco, attended the meeting.

They discussed the overall developments in the region, and reviewed the draft final statement the Jerusalem Committee intends to issue at the conclusion of its meetings.

King Receives 'Arafat, Al-Faysal

LD1610060590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty received, following the conclusion of the proceedings of the Jerusalem Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestinine and chairman of the Executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The audience was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying Yasir 'Arafat and his majesty's adviser, Ahmed Reda Guedira.

After that, His Majesty received His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi minister of foreign affairs.

'Arafat Meets Iraq's 'Aziz

LD1610232490 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, held a round of talks in Rabat yesterday with His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, after the extraordinary session of the Jerusalem Committee had concluded. During the meeting, the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the blessed Palestinian intifadah, in the shadow of the escalation of Zionist campaigns of oppression and terrorism against our Palestinian people and in particular the crime of the al-Aqsa Mosque, were discussed. The latest developments in the current situation in the Gulf region, in the shadow of the U.S. presence, and the means of finding an Arab political solution to this crisis were also examined.

'Arafat also met with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Rabat. During their meeting the latest developments in the Arab arena were discussed, particularly developments in the Gulf region and ways of finding an Arab political solution to this crisis.

'Arafat Meets With Al-Faysal

JN1710124490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal yesterday on the sidelines of the Jerusalem Committee meetings. Talks focused on the Gulf crisis. The agency added that the Palestinian president asked Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to convey a message to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The contents of the message were not revealed.

'Arafat Meets European Delegation

LD1710082190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met for four hours last night in Tunis with a European parliamentary delegation led by the French Socialist deputy, Claude Chesson.

'Arafat said that the meeting covered the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the Palestine people's cause following the brutal massacre committed recently by the Zionist occupation forces. He said that the discussion with the delegation of seven European parliamentarians centered on the importance of finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf and Middle East crisis. He said: We believe the solution should be an Arab one within a European cover. Europe has an important role to play in this area.

'Arafat added that there is agreement between the two sides on the need for the exertion of all possible efforts to find a peaceful solution, because the alternative would be a devastating war.

Replying to a question concerning the results of the Jerusalem Committee meeting which concluded last Monday [15 October] in Rabat, president 'Arafat affirmed that he is happy with these results, particularly following the final statement issued by the committee stressing the need for international protection of the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and in Palestine, as well as the protection of the Palestinian people from the official terrorism practiced by the occupation forces.

Claude Chesson spoke of the European Parliament's grave concern over the Gulf crisis which necessitated the adoption of a resolution stressing the importance of searching for a peaceful solution, the main features of which are to be drawn by the Arab countries. He said that the quest for such a solution demands that the PLO and the chairman of its executive committee play an important role. He noted the mediation Yasir 'Arafat has been carrying out for several years.

In conclusion, Chesson said that the European parliamentary delegation conveyed to Yasir 'Arafat the sorrow that overwhelmed the European Parliament over the Jerusalem massacre. He said that the massacre is an unbearable aggression against the Palestinian people.

'Arafat, Al-Faysal, Al-Shar' Leave

LD1610211590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine, left Morocco today. Prime Minister Laraki, his majesty's advisor Ahmed Bensouda, Minister of Transport Bouamoud, the ambassador of Palestine to Morocco, and a number of other figures saw him off. [passage omitted]

HRH Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, also left Morocco today after taking part in the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee which was chaired yesterday, Monday, by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious. [passage omitted]

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made a statement to the press at Rabat Sale airport. He said:

[Begin recording] I express the satisfaction of the Syrian delegation at the results of the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee under His Majesty King Hassan, especially the final statement's clear and strong condemnation of the ugly massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces at the al-Aqsa Mosque against the sons of the Palestinian people. We believe that the applying of more international pressure on Israel is liable to achieve Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Jerusalem Committee embodies and represents the expectations of the Islamic world toward the liberation of the occupied territories, foremost among which is noble Jerusalem. We should not forget that the issue of Jerusalem is a sensitive and critical one. Our nation cannot give up its sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem, even if this were to cost it many sacrifices. Israel should realize that holding on to Arab Jerusalem will only bring evil consequences to it, and it will pay dearly for this. Our determination is certain and our nation proceeds along this line. [end recording]

The Saudi and Syrian ministers were seen off by Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and a number of other figures. Before this, the foreign ministers of Bangladesh and Senegal left our country. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Allows 'Conditional' Use of Arms in Israel

JN1710091690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] A prominent PLO Central Council member has said that at the end of the Council's meetings in Tunis last week, a decision was made to allow the use of arms only against Israeli soldiers, and in areas far from Arab populated areas, in order to prevent the occupation authorities from perpetrating massacres against civilians.

In a statement after his return from Tunis, the member, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the use of arms is conditional on advanced approval from the leaderships inside or outside [the occupied territories]. He stressed that our people's blood, which was shed by the Zionist enemy most recently during the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre, will not be spent uselessly. He said that the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, will not hesitate to punish those who shed Palestinian blood.

Responding to a question, the source [as published] said that the intifadah will witness a new start against the Zionist enemy in response to the Palestinian leadership's request for the participation of independents in the Unified National Leadership of the Initifadah, the popular committees, and the welfare committees in decisionmaking and in achieving true national unity among all the organizations and movements operating in the Palestinian arena against the Zionist enemy.

Regarding the conditions of Palestinians in the Gulf states who are being exposed to harassment, the source said that the Palestinian leadership has attached special importance to this issue, and that a committee has been formed in Kuwait under 'Ali al-Hasan to deal with the humanitarian cases and to extend aid and assistance to our people in Kuwait.

Three Fatah Members Killed Near Haifa 'Recently'

JN1610165290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 oct 90

[Text] The Fatah movement has announced that three of its officers, one of whom was from Tunisia, were martyred during a maritime battle off the Haifa shore on the Palestinian coast recently. A Fatah statement published in Amman today said that those martyrs are Lieutenant Hadi Safi al-Masdar from Tunisia, Lt. Harbi Ahmad al-Ramlah, a Palestinian, and Lt. Muhammad Zakariyah al-Jald, a Palestinian.

Voice of Palestine Calls for Defense of Jerusalem

JN1610145090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Unattributed address]

[Text] Brethren, from the wounds, blood stains, and shrapnel; from the grinding of flesh and bullets; from the awareness of a strong feeling of injustice, coercion, and tragedy; Jerusalem, the pearl of our Arab race, the testing arena for more than 1,000 years, the eternal symbol of our Islamic faith, the place to which our great Prophet journeyed and his gateway to heaven; Jerusalem, our first qiblah [place toward which Muslims pray] and the wall of time on which our memories and God's names are engraved; Jerusalem itself, and no other place; Jerusalem with its plazas, al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, walls, gates, Caliph 'Umar's covenant, and Salal al-Din's horses, which sank knee deep in blood to liberate it; Jerusalem itself, and no other place, with its children who are throwing stones in the face of injustice that is armed to the teeth; with its men, women, and old people who are resisting the awl with their bare hands; Jerusalem, with the call of its minarets beseeching us to clash with our enemy; Jerusalem whose every corner and stone is a source of inspiration; Jerusalem is calling on us.

If we are true Arabs bound by our ancestry, loyal to our pure lineage, still drinking from our first spring, and not worshiping the Gods of the unjust, Jerusalem's call to us will not disappear into oblivion and dust will not darken our vision, which has been focused on Jerusalem over the years. Jerusalem is calling on us.

If we are true Muslims who read the Koran, begin every action with God's name, and are moved by the very the mention of the words God is great [Allahu Akbar], then Jerusalem's call to us will not die. After all, is Jerusalem not our inheritance, heavenly promise, only path to salvation, and the blood that triumphs over the sharp swords of the unjust?

What happened on bloody Monday [8 October]? What is happening in and around Jerusalem now? The matter is not difficult or vague, despite the confused talk about matters of the heart and politics, the intermingling between the present and the past, and the steadfastness of justice before the belligerence of the sinful forces. What has taken place and is taking place today in Jerusalem and Palestine is, in all simplicity and clarity, an all-out attack by our enemies, whom we know very well and whose names we have memorized. It is an all-out attack to eliminate us completely as an entity, a homeland, a culture, and a faith. We are all one target, be it those who are in the midst of the blazing fire, that is, the Palestinians; or those who are within the range of a stone, a bullet, a missile, or a plane, or inside the chains of siege.

Whoever claims to be safe, let him tell us how that is possible. Whoever imagines that he is safe outside the mortal target, let him explain his clever strategy. These Zionists, along with the concentration of our traditional enemies, are advancing and advancing. They are pulling down the immunities one after the other. They are violating the sanctities one after the other. They are making commonplace what used to be shocking. They are advancing and advancing in waves of new immigrants under international deals that have reached supernatural levels. They are advancing and advancing through the daily killing of Palestinians, to the point where the killing operations have become a daily routine. In fact matters have shamefully reached the point where our dormant feelings are no longer moved when the dead can only be counted on the fingers of one hand—two, three, or four dead; or two, three, or four demolished houses—babies being strangulated in the wombs of Palestinian mothers, the map of greater Israel being distributed by travel agents, the annulment of our first qiblah and the establishment of their ancient superstitions in its place. Our dormant feelings are no longer moved and our true feeling of impending danger is being sold in the markets of false reassurance.

No, no one is safe from danger. This is what our bitter experiences tell us, and this is how we see the details of the picture in which we are living today, in a world that is changing and changing and but that does not want to grant us anything but emptiness.

At the turn of this century, the powerful nations inherited the collapsed empires. We did not regroup. We did not know how to regroup. So we became part of an inheritance that moved from hand to hand. After World War II, the world was split between East and West. We were also split between the two camps. Today, the world is changing. It is exacting from our blood, land, resources, assets, and oil the price of change. We are still dancing at others' weddings without stopping to think that we are the sheep being butchered for the wedding banquet and that our blood is the wine that intoxicates the others.

The Gulf crisis has taken place. We are not here to go into all its implications. Why all this enthusiasm to inflame the differences? Why are we so keen to burn all our fingers and all the bonds that pull us together to the one mother? The Gulf crisis highlights the world being reformed around us. It is an objection stated in a loud voice. It is the throwing of a stone into the waters that seek to swallow us up. Some people may not agree with the method or the timing. Nevertheless, the Gulf crisis has given us a vast knowledge that, in its new changes, the world around us is not taking us into consideration. It continues the process of eliminating us as an entity, a culture, and a creed. The Gulf crisis has provided much practical experience of the fact that, despite our great weakness, we possess many strong points—our oil, which God bestowed on us; our strategic position; our waterways; our markets whose consumption is insatiable; and our assets in our vaults.

The present may not be a suitable time to demand what we cannot achieve. But can we not at least bargain? What do we lose by restoring Kuwait and Palestine, keeping the kaaba and Jerusalem safe, and ensuring the flow of oil to the industries of the powerful in exchange for a homeland for Palestinians, and opening our waterways in exchange for shutting the gates of Zionist emigration that wants to uproot us? Are we asking too much. Let us try. What is wrong with trying. How can we miss our opportunity before the new world order establishes itself and imposes its conditions on us without a price? Even if what we are demanding is difficult, has dialogue among us become impossible? Should we allow those who want to take from us the gift of life and our generations' right to the future?

Jerusalem is calling us. Jerusalem's call is not a point of disagreement. Jerusalem, in the past and the future, represents the line of defense for Arab and Muslim life. The enemies themselves know full well that if, God forbid, they succeed in destroying the Arab and Islamic line of defense represented by Jerusalem, strangulating its interactions and stifling what radiates from it, everyone will be compelled to raise Zionist flags, just as they were compelled prior to Salal al-Din to raise crusader flags. Jerusalem's call on us to return to our origin may be difficult; bearing arms is not the profession of the frightened; tightening of belts is not the custom of the zealous, and distinguishing friend from foe does not suit the conciliators.

Indeed, the call is a difficult one after all the division and hypocrisy, and after all the hated declarations that have turned wrong into right and right into wrong. But we have no choice but to try, especially having seen with our own eyes and felt with our own fingers that the world's language to us is no more than a heap of illusions. (?Detente) is an agreement against us, and human rights are human rights for the powerful only. World peace is only peace among the tyrants themselves. There is no peace between them and us. They speak in two languages and judge matters by double standards. The roses are in their gardens and the fire is in our eyes. This is how they deal with us. This is how Jerusalem reveals to us the secrets in the back rooms of the big powers.

Peace be upon you, O Jerusalem. O Muslim Arabs, Jerusalem itself, and no other place, calls you to the path of strength, the path of peace.

Factions in Syria Commemorate Jerusalem Events

JN1410174090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—Palestinian resistance factions and the Palestinian Arab people's masses this morning staged a large march in the al-Yarmuk Camp to mark the passing of one week since the savage Zionist massacre in al-Haram al-Sharif [al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock compound] in Jerusalem.

The march was led by Comrade Muhammad Nasir, assistant secretary-general of the Palestinian organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; several comrade members of the Party's Palestinian organization; Talal

Naji, [former] PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]; Abu-Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani], member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Abu-Layla [nom de guerre of Qays al-Samarra'i, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine]; Abu-Hazim [not further identified], member of the Central Committee of Fatah-the Uprising Movement; and a number of members of political bureaus of the Palestinian resistance factions. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Interviewed by Iran's ETTELA'AT

LD1510112190 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15 IRNA—Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization believes that peace between Iran and Iraq, coupled with the intifada, will bear fresh fruits in a joint struggle against imperialism.

Interviewed by a reporter of Tehran's afternoon daily ETTELA'AT in Tunis recently which was published in Sunday's issues of the paper, 'Arafat also said that he had proposed a Palestinian peace initiative to the current Persian Gulf crisis which had received the backing of a number of Arab states.

The objective of the plan, 'Arafat added, is to resolve the issue of Kuwait in the context of an Arab formula "far from any foreign intervention".

The plan underlines settlement of all the Middle East problems, either in the Persian Gulf, Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon or the Golan Heights, he said.

According to the plan, the process has already started with the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iran and could spread to other areas including Kuwait, 'Arafat claimed.

The sheikhdom is under Iraqi occupation since August 2 when it was invaded by Saddam Husayn's forces which triggered a new crisis in the Persian Gulf after the eight year old war with Iran.

In the PLO leader's point of view, military presence of the West in the region is not to "defend regional regimes but to safeguard imperialist and American interests in the oil-rich Middle East and (Persian) Gulf regions".

This, he added, "would not only be dangerous for the Arab and Muslim ummah, but for all deprived and third world countries as well."

As for the Palestinian uprising, 'Arafat said the intifada will continue until the time an end is put to the Zionist occupation and the beloved al-Quds is liberated.

"These military operations will be continued and never stop...I do not fight merely for the sake of fighting but rather for the implementation of a political program," he noted.

It was for this same reason that "I attended the United Nations in 1974 with a specific political program...holding a gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other." But, he stressed, "the olive branch has died away and the gun has been attacked by Israeli mercenaries in the Arab territory. Nothing has been left before the Palestinian gun except for southern Lebanon where the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies are still holding their guns."

As for Iran-Palestine relations and the outcome of a recent visit to Tehran of a Palestinian delegation, the PLO chairman said the visit had good results, adding that another delegation was scheduled to visit Iran.

But he stressed "irrespective of the result of the delegation's visit...we have exerted utmost efforts and will continue to do so, in order to strengthen relations between Palestinian revolution and Iranian brethren once again."

'Arafat asked the reporter to underline the phrase 'once again', expressing satisfaction at the fact that such ties had not been broken "even during the past hard times".

"Together and along with each other, until the time to liberate the beloved al-Quds, God willing, to hold a prayer there, and materialize aspiration of the imam (Khomeyni), 'Arafat said in a brief message to the Iranian Muslims.

The ideal of the late great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, was the uprising of all Hizballah and popular forces throughout the world for the liberation of al-Quds, ETTELA'AT added in conclusion.

Egypt

Government Asks U.S. for Sanctions on Israel

JN1610175090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] As part of its active moves to press Israel into accepting the international team charged with investigating the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre, Egypt has called on the U.S. Administration to impose international sanctions against Israel for its failure to receive the mission. The Egyptian request, conveyed through diplomatic channels, stressed the need for these sanctions to be deterrent and adequate to force Israel to receive the mission.

Informed Egyptian sources told our radio that the world should demonstrate unity in imposing sanctions against any country that fails to comply with Security Council resolutions. Egypt urged the United States not to slacken in implementing the Security Council resolution against Israel. It said any such slackening would cause the loss of any real peace opportunities in the region. Egypt asked for a U.S. reply as soon as possible so that the world community can assume its responsibility toward the protection of the Palestinian people.

Jordanian Embassy Denies Expulsion of Workers

NC1610190390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—The Jordanian Embassy in Cairo has said that the Jordanian Government has not deported any Egyptian worker who carries a valid work permit.

In a statement issued today, the embassy said that of about 200,000 Egyptian workers now in Jordan, around 40,000 have valid work permits. It added that the Jordanian Government is giving those without work permits time to correct the issue of their residence in Jordan.

The embassy statement said that among the guest workers in Jordan only Egyptian workers occupy a unique position, and that Egyptian citizens in general receive good treatment, reflecting the affection and ties of close brotherhood between the two peoples. [passage omitted]

Turkish President Ozal Arrives 16 Oct

Welcomed by Mubarak

NC1610135690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Turkish President Turgut Ozal arrived in Cairo from Qatar this afternoon for a two-day visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak was on hand to receive the Turkish guest at Cairo airport.

Holds Private Talks With Mubarak

NC1610174890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Turkish President Turgut Ozal held a private round of talks at the presidential office in Heliopolis tonight.

The two presidents reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf region after the Iraqi military invasion of the State of Kuwait.

Talks Outlined by Al-Sharif

NC1610214690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2042 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Turkish President Turgut Ozal will resume their talks tomorrow morning, Wednesday, at al-Qubbah Palace, where the Turkish president is staying during his visit.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that Presidents Mubarak and Ozal discussed during their meeting today the latest developments in the Gulf region in light of the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait.

He added that there was an understanding and agreement on how to confront this invasion and restore legitimacy to Kuwait to ensure security and stability in the Gulf region.

The two sides also discussed the position of the countries most affected by the Gulf war [as received], foremost of which are Egypt and Turkey, and the possibility of economically helping and supporting these countries in facing the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

In a statement to MENA, al-Sharif added that Presidents Mubarak and Ozal also discussed ways to promote and develop bilateral cooperation in various political, economic, and trade fields.

Calls for Peaceful End to Crisis

TA1610215290 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Report by Guntac Aktan from Cairo]

[Text] In a statement in Cairo today, President Turgut Ozal said that no matter how the Gulf crisis is solved, he favors the settling of this problem through peaceful ways and in accordance with UN resolutions.

He noted that he had constructive talks during his visit in Qatar and that he exchanged views on the solution of the Gulf crisis. Pointing out that all views expressed in the Gulf countries he visited are generally parallel to those of Turkey, Ozal said: I had the impression that because these countries are more closely affected by the crisis, they desire a quick solution to this problem. I believe more time and patience is needed for results to be achieved by the UN resolutions so that the crisis can be solved through peaceful means.

Ozal said that in his talks in Qatar, he pointed out that Turkey preferred a peaceful solution to the crisis because a war might create a series of new problems in the future.

Pointing out that Turkey's prestige in the Gulf area will continue to be high following the solution of the crisis, Ozal said that Turkey's stand on the crisis has greatly impressed those countries. He added that the Gulf countries were ready to maintain a close relationship with Turkey after the crisis is settled.

In response to questions by journalists after he made his statement, Ozal said that in talks he held today, he exchanged views with President Husni Mubarak on the Gulf crisis, its solution, and the problems that might arise after the crisis is solved.

Ozal continued: There is no certainty that the problem will be solved through peaceful means. It will be solved as the circumstances dictate. Naturally, for the problem to be solved peacefully the UN resolutions must be strictly implemented. If this is done, then the problem can be settled peacefully. In other words, Iraq must receive this message very clearly so that it knows it has no other alternatives.

Ozal recalled that mediation in this crisis is out of the question because of the pertinent UN resolutions.

Ozal is expected to conclude his talks in the Arab Republic of Egypt tomorrow.

Attends Dinner Hosted by Mubarak

NC1610215490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2044 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a dinner banquet in honor of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, who is currently visiting Cairo, and the delegation accompanying him, at the presidential headquarters in Heliopolis this evening.

A number of senior state officials, members of the mission escorting the Turkish president, the Egyptian ambassador in Turkey, and Turkey's ambassador in Cairo, attended the dinner.

Meets With Mubarak Second Time

NC1710094590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0818 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—This morning, President Husni Mubarak and Turkish President Turgut Ozal held a second session of talks at al-Qubbah Palace, where the Turkish president is staying.

The two presidents reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf in light of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. They also reviewed a number of international and regional issues as well as the bilateral relations between the two countries, especially in the field of economic, trade, and technical cooperation.

Departs for Damascus

NC1710095690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Turkish President Turgut Ozal left Cairo for Damascus before noon today at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak headed a delegation which saw the Turkish president off at Cairo airport.

During his visit, the Turkish president held two meetings with President Mubarak during which the two leaders discussed developments in the Gulf region, the Middle East issue, and the future of Egyptian-Turkish cooperation in various fields.

The two leaders also discussed the impact the serious situation in the Gulf has had on their two countries.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud Al-Faysal Arrives

NC1710064390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2308 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo this evening on a brief visit. During his stay in Cairo, he will hold talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the Gulf crisis and current developments in the region.

He was received at the airport by Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department.

Meets With Mubarak; Comments

NC1710141990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has expressed his satisfaction with his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today.

In a statement after the meeting, al-Faysal said: I was greatly honored to meet with President Mubarak to convey to him the condolences of the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd of Saudi Arabia] on the death of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. This death grieved all of us, but it has not affected our determination or Egypt's determination to continue to serve the Arab nation.

Al-Faysal said: The meeting provided an opportunity to review the situation in the region, to convey to President Mubarak the views of the custodian of the two holy mosques, and to consult between the Egyptian and Saudi leadership. He added: Needless to say, the leaders of the two countries hold identical views on the situation and on the measures being taken to confront the serious situation in the region.

Asked about Israel's rejection of the UN fact-finding mission and the possibility of the Security Council's being asked to issue another resolution, al-Faysalzsaid: I have already stated that we are pleased with the existence of an international consensus on confronting the Israeli aggression at the al-Aqsa Mosque. We call on the Security Council to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and take the necessary measures to bring about its implementation.

Soviet Ambassador, 'Abd-al-Majid Discuss Gulf

NC1610123790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Vladimir Polyakov.

Polyakov said that the meeting fell within the framework of the continued consultations between Egypt and the Soviet Union and of the exchange of views on all issues of concern to both countries, particularly recent developments in the Gulf region.

Polyakov said that he explained to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid the results of the talks USSR Presidential Council member Yevgeniy Primakov held in Baghdad recently.

Polyakov said that Egypt and the Soviet Union agree on the need to implement the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the solution of the Gulf crisis, especially the call for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Polyakov said that ties between Egypt and the USSR are good and that the recent visit by President Husni Mubarak to the Soviet Union laid the foundations for their further consolidation in all spheres.

The Soviet ambassador concluded by noting that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid offered him the Egyptian leadership's congratulations on President Mikhail Gorbachev's receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Butrus Ghali Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

PM1510144690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 90 p 3

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Khalil Matar in New York; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Matar] How would you assess the international position on the Gulf crisis, in view of your meetings in New York?

[Ghali] We must start first with the international level. I can say that what is being achieved is an end to the cold war and new cooperation between the two major states. When I met with Secretary James Baker and Minister Eduard Shevardnadze I found that their positions were almost the same—the need to implement the Security Council resolutions and the need to demand that Iraq first withdraw from Kuwaiti territory, and second, restore legitimacy to Kuwait. The need to implement UN resolutions was the common denominator between them.

And although we did not talk about the next step if sanctions fail to achieve the required outcome, I can say that there is agreement, indeed more than agreement: There is cooperation between the two countries.

If we move to the regional level, we will find that the various groups which took part—including the Islamic Conference, the Nonaligned Movement, the Arab League, or the group of 24, which comprises 12 Arab ministers and 12 African ministers—are unanimous on the need for withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory and the restoration of legitimacy to it. [passage omitted]

[Matar] The question which should be asked is: Would the military option be turned to in light of the intransigent Iraqi position?

[Ghali] I think very few people can answer that question. Would we turn to the military option if the peace option fails? Egyptian diplomacy sees that we must try and try and try to find a peaceful solution, even if the chances of success for that solution are very limited. We must work. As to whether the military option will outweigh the peace option, or when the military option will be applied, neither I nor the majority of the UN member states have the answer.

[Matar] What is the possibility of imposing a change in the Iraqi position through sanctions?

[Ghali] Sanctions are not the only means. There is military pressure. The presence of 120,000 troops, the presence of troops and air forces, and the continued arrival of forces—all this in itself is additional pressure alongside the economic pressure. There is also a positive aspect, namely, the endeavors being made.

But regrettably, the Iraqi UN representative's recent speech was very negative and included no response to the endeavors which have been made, most recently the initiative of the the Nonaligned Movement, to which Iraq and Kuwait are affiliated. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Do you believe that Iraq will not never leave Kuwait?

[Ghali] I speak in view of the statements emanating from Baghdad. We, however, still have hope, which is why we are working earnestly toward securing a peaceful solution through withdrawal: As Iraq, after an eight-year war managed to return to the Algiers agreement, return the land it occupied from Iran, and accept the partitioning of Shatt al-'Arab, and is even ready to pay damages to Iran despite the eight-year war; then there is a possibility that the Iraqis may withdraw from Kuwait in two or three months in accordance with the same logic; thus we will have achieved the sought objective without bloodshed.

[Matar] Saddam Husayn needed Kuwait in order to withdraw from Iran. What will he need in order to withdraw from Kuwait?

[Ghali] Economic and military pressure, as well as diplomatic persuasion.

[Matar] How would you assess the Iranian position on the crisis?

[Ghali] We sensed that Iran adheres to the Security Council resolutions and is participating in implementing them.

[Matar] The Iranian position on the crisis has led to an improvement in Iran's relations with many Arab states. Will that reflect on Iranian-Egyptian relations?

[Ghali] So far no contacts have been made with Iran. Perhaps the reason is the presence of Egyptian POW's in Iran. We are in contact with the International Red Cross to secure the release of these POW's.

[Matar] Were any of them freed during the exchange of prisoners between Iraq and Iran?

[Ghali] No.

[Matar] What is required to improve relations?

[Ghali] As far as we are concerned, the matter is unclear. There are contacts with the Red Cross.

[Matar] Can direct contacts be made to secure the release of the POW's?

[Ghali] Contacts have been made on the ambassadorial level. I cannot say that there are no contacts.

[Matar] At one point Egypt was alarmed at Iran's support for some Islamic groups in Cairo.

[Ghali] I do not think that is the reason. There is no real involvement between Iran and the Islamic groups in Egypt.

[Matar] So Iran did not threaten Egypt's security.

[Ghali] No.

[Matar] There is another question: Saddam Husayn is citing certain historical events, comparing them with the Egyptian presence in Saudi Arabia, and making threats. What does your participation in the defensive forces in Saudi Arabia mean?

[Ghali] A special bilateral relationship between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia asked Egypt to dispatch forces, and Egypt agreed. The Egyptian forces are working under Saudi command. The Egyptian forces are there to defend Saudi territory, not for any other objective. Their presence is defensive, not offensive. [passage omitted]

Further on Al-Mahjub Assassination

Discussed by Cabinet

NC1510094590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0856 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—The Council of Ministers held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi this morning to discuss the latest results of investigations and security authorities' efforts to arrest the culprits in the assassination of Rif'at al-Mahjub.

The Council will also discuss several foreign policy issues, the domestic economic situation, developments in the Gulf crisis, and the facilities offered to Egyptian returnees.

Interior Minister on 'Clues'

NC1610114290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has said that security organs are already in possession of some clues that may lead to the arrest of the assassins of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, but added that in the interests of the investigation this information will be kept secret for the time being. Minister 'Abd-al-Halim said that the security service will not relent in its efforts until the culprits are arrested.

This came at a meeting between Minister 'Abd-al-Halim and the officers and recruits at the central security camp in Cairo. The minister thanked the hundreds of citizens who phoned the police to provide information about the incident. He noted that the public's positive attitude and awareness are the most important assets on which the security organs rely in defending the domestic front against the activities of terrorist elements inside and outside the country.

Abu-Nidal Link Suggested

LD1610160990 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Security Sources Emphasize Existence of Link Between Abu-Nidal Group and Assassination Incident"]

[Text] Informed security sources have emphasized the existence of a link between the perpetrators of the assassination incident against [People's Assembly Speaker] Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and the terror group arrested in Cairo recently and which is comprised of Palestinians, Iraqis, and Jordanians. The sources also emphasized that the terrorists are professionals in carrying out assassinations. The sources thought that the four terrorists who carried out the assassination operation against al-Mahjub are likely to be affiliated with the Palestinian Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] terror group. As AL-WAFD went to press, the sources pointed out that the real view about the perpetrators was still unclear.

Paper Criticizes Perpetrators

PM1610154790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 1

[Article by Jamal Badawi: "An Abominable Crime Rejected by the Egyptian People"]

[Text] Where is the courage in the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and his companions? What motive did the assassination have other than to frighten the Egyptian people, undermine public security, and drag the country into a whirlpool of terrorism?

The way the massacre was carried out indicates that it was the result of a precise criminal plan against Egypt to deny it security and turn it into an arena of destruction, with bombs exploding, dynamite, and gunfire, and to smear its face with blood.

It is too early to point an accusing finger at any particular party before the security organs investigate and identify the terrorist plot and seek to abort it before its danger intensifies with additional such acts that would double the impact of terrorism and sabotage in Egypt. Egyptian society has been appalled by this ugly crime, committed in the heart of Cairo and claiming the life of a prominent politician and intellectual. It was a criminal act which could not possibly have had political motives because, in the field of political activity, Egypt has had differences of opinion but no terrorism or settling of accounts with machine guns and grenades. Assassination has never been a way of solving a problem or settling a political dispute, but it has always been a way to more terrorism and violence. Those who had differences of opinion with Dr. al-Mahjub only believe in dialogue. They do not acknowledge terrorism as a way of dictating an opinion or settling a score.

There can be no doubt that the criminal hands which assassinated Dr. al-Mahjub and his innocent companions do not rise to that level in matters of political disagreement. Terrorism blinds and blurs sound vision. The crime of Dr. al-Mahjub's assassination has cast a gloomy shadow on all Egyptians, whatever their political and party affiliations, and has received nothing but condemnation and denunciation from them.

Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub's name has been linked to the People's Assembly for the past six years, and it was his destiny to meet his maker on the last day in the life of the People's Assembly, as if by appointment. If we disagreed with the man when he was alive and at the peak of his glory and power, today we cannot but wish him God's mercy and forgiveness, hoping that his killers will get their due punishment for their despicable crime.

Editor Comments on Attack

JN1610113590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi': "On Whom are They Firing Bullets?"]

[Text] On whom did the cuplrits fire their treacherous bullets in Cairo yesterday? The sinful bullets fired yesterday did not target the person of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, former speaker of the People's Assembly and his guards, young sincere Egyptians. Those who fired these bullets, be they treacherous and terrorist elements coming from abroad or internal treacherous and terrorist elements, actually targeted Egypt's security and stability, its democracy, and the torches of freedom that it has lit. Likewise, the treacherous bullets targeted Egypt's confrontation of treachery and external terrorism as well as its rejection of the devouring of an Arab state by another Arab state. Moreover, these bullets also targeted Egypt's firm position on the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre and its constant and sincere efforts to resolve the Palestine question and serve other Arab issues.

These are the real objectives of the treacherous and terrorist bullets which resounded in Cairo yesterday. As for the killers and slayers who fired them, they are the enemies of democracy, pluralism, and constitutional provisions. They are the enemies of those who adhere to Arab principles and make dear sacrifices to vindicate them. Otherwise, why did they choose the person of the late Rif'at al-Mahjub as a victim for their dastardly crime?

Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub was neither an influential party to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute, nor an executive official whose blood was sought to avenge the blood of anybody inside or outside Egypt, nor was he a major party in a ferocious fight with internal or external terrorist groups. The curtain was even drawn over his partisan and political quarrels by the recent referendum held on the dissolution of his Assembly. It is a strange coincidence that he was assassinated on the day on which the outcome of the referendum was announced, on which the Assembly dissolution was endorsed, and on which his official capacity as speaker was brought to an end. Why did they assassinate him?

The heart of the matter is that they assassinated him because he is a great Egyptian political symbol. They did this to tell their masterminds, the terrorist leaders, that they stabbed security in Egypt. They assassinated him to tell their leaders who are staying in the dens of black terrorism that they dealt a painful blow to Egypt's heart through the assassination of a prominent political figure.

They assassinated him to receive from their masters the price for their new attempt to starve the Egyptian people; strangle their economy, tourism revenues, and investment by striking at the security and stability which are still prevailing in Egypt and which are a cause of concern to them, whereas their societies are replete with assassinations, car bombings, executions without trial, and hostage taking. This is the objective and the scheme.

If we know the objective of this crime and those who stand to benefit from it, we would immediately know the real culprits in this ugly crime. Besides, we would also know their locations and dens, regardless of the identity of the mercenaries, hirelings, and professional killers hired to pull the triggers.

In no time, these frenzied rats will fall into the hands of the security and law enforcement men. They will receive their deterrent punishment which will be as painful as was their ugly crime against Egypt's heart. The maximum penalty provided by the law will be handed down to them. Shortly, the shutters behind which they are hiding will be ripped away. Then, Egypt will say its word in the open and to the entire world. It will also announce its ruling on them in all firmness and strength to avert the dangers that they pose to Egypt, the Arab region, and the entire world, and to curb their criminal terrorism, the like of which has never been known in the history of world nations.

As for you, Rif'at al-Mahjub, huge reserves of wrath and indignation are engulfing all Egyptians against these sinful culprits because of their crime. Our sadness for your departure is as great as our wrath and indignation. We weep for you and eulogize you as a sincere son of Egypt and the Arab nation, and also as a new martyr among the righteous Egyptian martyrs who have fallen to defend the Egyptian national soil and Arab right.

Your blood will neither go to waste nor will the chaste blood of the young Egyptians who were martyred along with you. Soon, very soon, the day of reckoning will come. Then, the souls of martyrs will rest at ease in their heavenly abode. This will happen when their country punishes those who killed its sons and stabbed it in a vile, cowardly, and lowly manner.

Seen as 'Revenge Against Egypt'

*PM1610155790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
14 Oct 90 p 1*

[Article by Jamal Badawi: "Who Is the Culprit?"]

[Text] Many questions arise regarding the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, all indicating that the incident was not spontaneous and that it was preceded by studies and collection of accurate information and data about the target's movements from the moment he left his home on Friday [5 October]—a holiday, and the deceased was in the habit of not leaving his home on such occasions. The culprits had information on his itinerary to the Meridian Hotel where he had an appointment with the Syrian People's Assembly speaker. They waited in front of the Semiramis Hotel and began by liquidating the guard vehicle so as to get clear access to al-Mahjub's car. How was the fourth killer able to cover the distance from the scene of the crime to the Hilton Hotel in a hired car, kill an officer and injure another, and then walk through a crowded area to the hideout prepared to receive him?

All these points indicate precise planning and indicate that the crime was plotted by minds specializing in terrorism and carried out by well-trained people who knew Cairo's streets, alleys, exit points, and traffic quite well. That careful preparation, which left no room for error, is something new compared with past terrorist incidents in Egypt and is categorical evidence that it was done by professional organizations which have managed to infiltrate Egypt.

Regarding the motive of the crime, one can perceive it in the context of the well-known security rule, which is that you can find the culprit if you know the motive for the crime. It is very unlikely that Dr. al-Mahjub was the target of religious groups because, throughout his political life, he was distant from that field and his name was never linked to crimes of torture or investigation to make him a target for revenge. So, ruling out that possibility leaves only those who stand to benefit from generally undermining Egypt's security and choosing as a target a prominent figure with some weight in the Egyptian political structure, so that his assassination would produce the desired echo and so that vengeance could be wrought on Egypt for its position on the Gulf crisis.

The aim of the crime was not revenge against the person of Dr. al-Mahjub but revenge against Egypt, through a series of criminal acts of which assassination will not be the only manifestation. We had, in this same place, warned against all kinds of possibilities since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. That was not just a venture into the unknown but a realization stemming from knowledge of the intentions of the states and organizations which have made terrorism and dynamite dialogue their profession. The Egyptian Government, at the highest level, has announced that the Egyptian security organs have arrested terrorist elements who had infiltrated the country to carry out acts of terrorism with lists of prospective assassination targets in their possession.

Will all that change Egypt's position? In no way, because the Egyptian position emanates from a free Egyptian will and reflects the people's conviction in rejecting aggression, tyranny, usurpation of others' homelands, plundering of their wealth, the alteration of a country's features, and the displacement of its people. If confronting terrorism is primarily the duty of the Egyptian security organs, it is also the duty of all the people, because terrorist bullets do not differentiate between civilian and military or between ruler and ruled, and their aim is to kill all. All efforts must be pooled and geared toward foiling this criminal plot so that Egypt may surmount this crisis and defend its will and decisions against all intruders.

Columnist Accuses Iraq

*JN1710111790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
15 Oct 90 p 20*

["Stands" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] They have assassinated Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, the second man in Egypt. May God have mercy on him. He was assassinated by a "military" group that implements, covers, cuts off roads, and manages to escape. Before this, they assassinated 1,000 Egyptians who have returned in coffins after being hit on the front or back of their heads. Before this, there were also thousands of dead Egyptians in Iran, but without graves because they were "mercenaries" who defended a land with no cause, and a cause that is not an Egyptian one.

Thus, Saddam becomes a man when he says he kills. He not only killed a prominent Egyptian figure, he wanted to shake a regime and a society after he dealt a blow to tourism and economies of the whole world.

To prevent Saddam from destroying European civilization; planes, fleets, and rockets have come to the Gulf, and money and weapons have been given to the Kurds! And, so that his downfall will not be a storm sweeping the European and U.S. capitals, he should be destroyed on his own land and by the hands of his own people, those of the Iraqis or the Arabs. To avoid being the only state that deals a blow to him and consequently, becoming the hated state in the world, the United States sought the help of the PRC, which gave him nuclear material; Germany, which gave him poisonous gas; Russia, which gave him missiles; France, which gave him planes; Iran, which returned the prisoners of war; Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait, which gave money; and Egypt, which he expelled from the Arab League, thousands of its people of which he killed, and from which he stole thousands of millions of dollars. One of the Western embassies in Egypt has come up with a list of Iraqi espionage centers in Cairo and Alexandria, and another list of Arab and Egyptian Iraqi agents. Some of these names and centers have come as a surprise to the Egyptian security organs. However, this information has been proven to be accurate, some being identical to information we already had, and some which has astonished us.

Are we not going to expose those who assassinated al-Mahjub just as we have not exposed those who assassinated the Israeli tourists? We wanted to conceal the scandal to pave the way for a bigger scandal, and the bigger scandal has come.

Resident Palestinians Denied Use of Firearms

LD1210154190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
5 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar: "Firearms Licenses Withdrawn From All Palestinians in Egypt for Security Reasons"]

[Text] Egyptian security organs have over the past three weeks combed the Egyptian governorates to remove firearms from Palestinians residing in Egypt. They have also canceled all arms licenses granted to Palestinians. AL-WAFD has learned that security organs have ceased to grant new arms licenses to Palestinians arriving in Egypt, for security reasons. At the land points of entry into Egypt, as well as seaports and airports, the security organs thoroughly search Palestinians, Iraqis, and Jordanians to prevent any arms or explosives from being smuggled into Egypt to undermine Egypt's security and stability. The security organs are keeping a close watch on the contacts and movements of the three states' nationals residing in Egypt.

Security authorities have imposed tight security measures around some Arab embassies and consulates in Cairo and Alexandria to protect them from any terrorist operations planned by pro-Iraqi elements.

'Bomb' Found To Be Empty Insecticide Can

NC1610161790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT
16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Thousands of Egyptians gathered today in the area where what they believed to be a time bomb had been planted in al-Tahrir Square in Cairo. The gathering turned into a demonstration of support for President Mubarak, and the citizens shouted enthusiastically "long live Mubarak; long live Egypt." They also denounced the Iraqi president, shouting "...O Saddam."

The Interior Ministry's technical teams investigation of an insecticide can showed that it was empty and wrapped in battery wires in a way to make it look like an explosive.

As soon as the technical teams removed the can, the citizens in the area voiced their support for President Mubarak, praised the police, and denounced the agents.

Paper Says Husayn Knew of Saddam's Invasion Plan

NC1710080590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT
17 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH today publishes an analysis of the statement by King Husayn of Jordan to THE NEW YORK TIMES. The paper says: The Jordanian king's statements to THE NEW YORK TIMES make it clear that he was fully aware of the intentions of his colleague the Iraqi president before the invasion and that the king's claims that the invasion took him by surprise were absolutely untrue. Eventually, and after making a series of conflicting statements, the king had to admit this.

The paper adds: It is crystal clear that Egypt has developed the right vision and adopted the correct stand since the outset of the invasion.

When President Mubarak decided to postpone issuing a statement on the Egyptian stand on the invasion until the following day, he was trying to give the Iraqi president a chance to beat an honorable retreat. However, King Husayn, who was a partner to the Iraqi president's schemes and conspiracies, claimed that he had not conveyed to the Iraqi president the contents of President Mubarak's message, which included an initiative for a solution, on the day following the invasion. The king wanted the heads of state to attend a minisummit in Jeddah, without first securing any commitment to withdraw from the Iraqi president. Hence, it was King

Husayn and his collaborator Saddam who frustrated the holding of the minisummit by trying to use it to stall for time and legitimize the invasion.

The paper concludes that it is obvious that it was the truthfulness and sincerity of the Egyptian stand which prompted those who had dealt a blow to Arab solidarity and tried to mislead the Arab nation to resort to violence against Egypt.

AL-AHRAM Questions Effectiveness of UN

NC1710093790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0659 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes that the slowness which characterized the UN Security Council's deliberations, in which more than five days were required to work out an urgent resolution condemning the Israeli aggression against Palestinians in Jerusalem, points to a number of inescapable conclusions.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that the first conclusion that can be drawn is that the effectiveness of the United Nations in the international arena is essentially based on the central role the United States plays in this international institution, and not necessarily on an international desire to revive the UN's role. A clear indication of this has been provided by the developments in the Gulf crisis of the past few months, the paper says.

The second conclusion that can be drawn is the U.S. Government's continued failure to exert strong and clear pressure on Israel in a manner that would serve the interests of the United States in the Middle East and its relations with moderate Arab states. Even more important is Washington's failure to use the recent explosive situation in the occupied territories to benefit its military presence in the Gulf by launching proper initiatives in the regional political arena.

The final conclusion to be drawn, AL-AHRAM says, is related to Europe's failure to appear as a unified political entity in spite of the series of European denunciations which followed the Jerusalem massacre. This conclusion is related to Europe's failure to act as it did in the past and play a central role on the world stage and act independently of U.S. policy. In the past, Europe has adopted decisions which have always showed more support for the Palestinian issue and Arab rights.

Student Demonstrators Clash With Security Forces

PM1710092490 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Nabilah al-Sayyid: "Clashes Between Alexandria Students And Security Forces"]

[Text] The clashes which took placed yesterday between Alexandria University students and security forces resulted in scores of students' being injured. The clashes erupted following a student meeting in the university's stadium. After the meeting, demonstrators took to the streets, condemning U.S. policy and the Israeli massacre at Al-Aqsa Mosque. Security forces used tear gas, electric prods ['usiyy kahraba'iyah], and chains against the demonstrators.

Crude Oil Prices Reduced by $3 per Barrel

NC1610190890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—It has been decided to reduce the price of Egyptian crude oil by $3 a barrel. [passage omitted]

The new price of Egyptian crude is now as follows:

Khalij al-Zayt and Ra's al-Bihar crude: $35.30 a barrel;

Suez Gulf crude: $35 a barrel;

Bala'im crude: $34.15 a barrel;

Badran crude: $33 a barrel;

Gharib crude: $32 a barrel. [passage omitted]

Libya

'Source' Denies Link to Chilean Bomb Purchase

LD1610201790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Oct (JANA)—A responsible source at the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau today denied the report carried in the newspaper THE INDEPENDENT recently that the Great Jamahiriyah was cooperating with one of the military establishments in Chile to purchase a multipurpose bomb which has a destructive effect on people and property.

The responsible source said that the Great Jamahiriyah had never had any contact of this sort, and what the British newspaper said is not true.

JANA Editor Comments on Kuwaiti Conference

LD1610191590 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] In the last two days, Kuwaiti citizens have been holding a popular conference, which ended yesterday in al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia. The conference met to study the Kuwaiti condition. During this popular conference, the first of its kind in the history of the Kuwaiti people, everyone who went to al-Ta'if to take part in the general popular conference, from the amir of Kuwait down to the ordinary citizens and representatives of all political and popular tendencies, expressed their views, put forward suggestions, and discussed ways to ease their suffering.

The Arab affairs editor at JANA has commented on this event, which is considered to be the first of its kind in the

Arabian Gulf area. He said that despite the Kuwaiti problem and whether the conference was held inside or outside Kuwait, the convention of a general popular conference of the Kuwaiti people, embracing all their political and popular tentencies, is considered a new democratic phenomenon that has emerged in the Arab homeland. It responds to the requirements of the age of the masses which has begun its steady march to all the corners of the earth so that the masses may attain power and self-determination without anyone acting as their delegate or representative.

In his comments, the Arab affairs editor declared that the Jamahiri theory—the theory of popular conferences and popular committees—is the one that will triumph and dominate all regions of the world because it represents the trend of this era. [passage omitted]

He noted that the Kuwaiti popular conference will be an important starting point for transforming the Arab region, especially the Gulf region, since for the first time there is a gleam of hope that the masses will take the reins of their affairs into their hands and make their voices heard without an intermediary. He explained that regardless of the Kuwaiti problem, the popular theory embodied at this popular conference will triumph inside and outside Kuwait because it aims at establishing the people's authority. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Iraq's Ramadan Departs After Brief Visit

LD1710021390 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraqi first deputy prime minister, left the capital last night at the end of a visit to our country lasting several hours. [passage omitted]

During his stay in Nouakchott, the Iraqi minister was received by the head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, to whom he conveyed the greetings of Iraqi President Husayn. [passage omitted]

Traditional Arab Sources of Finance 'Dry Up'

AB1610213990 Paris AFP in English 1941 GMT 16 Oct 90

[By Francois-Xavier Harispe]

[Text] Nouakchott, Oct 16 (AFP)—The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, an ally of Iraq, is suffering from that connection as its traditional Arab sources of finance dry up. The sparsely-populated West African state gets about 40 per cent of its international aid from Arab sources, headed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Mauritania's oil bill of 50 million dollars last year looks set to reach 80 million this year, and some economists are predicting the Gulf crisis will push it above 100 million dollars as the price of crude keeps climbing. The knock-on effect is common to all Third World countries without their own oil, but Mauritania's political alignment threatens to make the situation worse. Economists in all sectors agree to country already si very seriously affected by a big freeze on funding.

The reception was distinctly chilly at the latest meeting in Washington with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which wanted to show their strong disapproval of Mauritania's close ties with Iraq. There is a serious shortage of foreign currency, usually garnered by iron ore exports and fishing. Returns from fishing this year are down, and new iron ore deposits remain unworked. Those in production turned out a rewarding 12 million tonnes for the latest year, but one mining expert warned the achievement had strained capacity to the utmost.

Another sign of loss of confidence was the noticeable reduction in circulation of the national currency, the ouguiya (81 to the dollar), financiers noted. Political analysts believe the government will need to discard some of its political baggage if it is to survive the worrying economic crisis in view. One official said privately: "Everything depends for us on the outcome of the Gulf crisis, we have everything to lose there".

Capital 'Tense' After Student Demonstrations

AB1610154890 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] A tense atmosphere currently prevails in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital, where students of two schools demonstrated yesterday to express dissatisfaction with worsening living conditions. These disturbances come at a time when the Mauritanian Government is launching a nationwide energy-saving campaign due to the Gulf crisis and increased oil costs.

Morocco

Ramadan Arrives With Message for King Hassan

LD1610074690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Morocco last night from Nouakchott. In a statement at the VIP Hall at the Rabat-Sale airport, he said that he will be conveying a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II.

He said that his visit to the Kingdom falls within the framework of a tour of the Arab Maghreb and Sudan to acquaint their leaders with the latest developments in the Gulf problem and the new developments associated with it to ensure coordination and cooperation in dealing with these conditions.

The Iraqi envoy was received at the airport by the Moroccan minister of justice, Moulay Mustapha Belarbi Alaoui, and the Iraqi ambassador to Rabat, Fadil al-Shahir.

Meets With King

LD1610143490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpt] King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received at the Royal Palace at Sirat today Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Ahmed Reda Guedira, the king's adviser, were also present at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Discusses Gulf Situation

JN1610180190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat, 16 Oct (INA)—King Hassan II of Morocco received here today Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister.

Ramadan conveyed greetings from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II. He stressed the need for developing bilateral relations and stepping up joint Arab action against foreign aggression that is designed to keep the Arab nation in a state of backwardness and servility.

The first deputy prime minister outlined the dangers inherent in the unprecedented foreign military buildup in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the pogroms committed by occupying Zionists against the Palestinian people as they carry on the intifadah.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said Iraq's policy on these developments and the dangers they pose to the Arab nation has been illustrated by its sincere and serious effort to establish peace in the region. Iraq, he explained, wants a settlement in order to meet the inalienable rights to land and resources and to provide for the departure of all occupying military forces from Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan Heights, Najd and Hejaz, and the Arabian Peninsula, citing President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative as a solid framework for bringing peace to the region.

His Majesty King Hassan asked Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his greetings to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, stressing Morocco's concern for continued and more developed bilateral cooperation to meet the aspirations of the people of Iraq and Morocco and the Arab nation.

His Majesty King Hassan II pointed out the importance of maintaining serious Arab, Islamic, and global efforts to achieve peace and spare the region war and losses in manpower and economic devastation.

The audience was attended by Morocco's Crown Prince Mohamed, and Messrs. Tariq 'Aziz, [Iraqi] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Abdellatif Filali, Morocco's minister of foreign affairs.

Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Morocco the day before yesterday in the course of a tour that has taken him to Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, and Mauritania.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1710020890 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister of the Iraqi Council of Ministers, left Morocco this evening. He was seen off at Rabat Sale Airport by the minister of justice, Moulay Mustafa Belarbi Alaoui, and the ambassador of Iraq to Morocco.

UAE Official Arrives With Message for King

LD1610221390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Morocco today with a message from Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for His Majesty King Hassan II, may God send him victory.

Sudan

Official Warns About Airspace Violations

AB1610160890 Paris AFP in English 1602 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 16 (AFP)—Sudan warned Tuesday it would attack unidentified aircraft in its airspace or those breaching its agreement with the United Nations for airlifting relief supplies to the south. The threat came in an interview in the paper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI given by junta member Colonel Muhammed al-Amin Khalifah.

He said the government had protested to the United Nations that its agencies and other relief bodies had stocked supplies only in southern areas held by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. Under Operation Lifeline it was agreed supplies would be sent to both government and rebel-held areas.

Official on U.S. Relations, Gulf Crisis

EA1610193490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1424 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Oct (SUNA) —Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the Department of Peace and Foreign Relations, has said that the U.S. Administration has made a miscalculation in pursuing its policy of starving the Sudanese people, forcing them to their knees; it fails to understand the mettle of the people. In an interview with AL-INQADH AL-WATANI published here today, his excellency emphasized that such behavior has damaged Sudanese-American relations and moved us toward many policy changes. He said the U.S. Administration's diversion of a ship carrying wheat under a contract with Sudan prompted us to be suspicious of our relations with the U.S. Administration and to rely even more on ourselves.

His excellency explained that the Revolution [word indistinct] the Political and Economic Department had, since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, been assessing all aspects of the situation to avoid being placed on the horns of a dilemma. Moreover, we badly need the Sudanese cadres who are abroad.

Col. Khalifah reiterated Sudan's principled attitude on the Gulf crisis. He said: If we condemned Iraq, among those fanning the fires of war. He said Sudan has expressed reservations over some of the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit which made it an international issue. Seeking the assistance of the misguided who had earned God's wrath in the holy land must be regarded as an excess of wrong-doing and lack of religion.

His excellency added that some European states changed their stance on the crisis and referred to the French initiative which, he [illegible]d, had come closer to the Sudanese position.

Col. Khalifah strongly attacked those opponents of the revolution living abroad. He said: We are not surprised that our opponents include the likes of Mansur Khalid, Mubarak al-Fadil, 'Izz al-Din 'Ali Amir, and Fathi Ahmed 'Ali.

His excellency disclosed that Al-Hadi al-Bushra, the official responsible for security during the era of the parties, had in his possession [word indistinct] when the revolution broke out, $5 million with which he fled to a European country to use to harass a [word indistinct] neighboring state, which suffered [words indistinct]. He said: The fact that the former commander in chief of the Armed Forces and some of his aides are taking refuge with the rebel movement at this time indicates opportunism, fishing in troubled waters, and attempts to gain power by any means.

The chairman of the peace department denied any deadlock in the peace process. He said there was diplomatic [words indistinct], adding that the other side was perplexed by the program proposed by the government [words indistinct] if all sides came to be convinced by it. He stressed that the national peace dialogue conference (?constituted) a opening initiative that put forward a [word indistinct] settlement of all aspects of the issue.

Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah said the government could not keep silent in the face of the excesses perpetrated by the organizations running Operation Lifeline. Complaints had even reached [words indistinct]. He clarified that the Sudanese Air Force was correct in attacking any unidentified aircraft infringing upon what had been agreed.

Tunisia

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan Arrives

LD1710022190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister of Iraq, arrived in Tunis at 2230 today.

He was welcomed at Tunis International Airport in Carthage by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, Minister of Justice Chadli Neffati, and Interior Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh.

It is known that Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan has been on a tour in which he has visited the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania.

During his visit to Tunis on Sunday [14 October] Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali concerning the latest developments in the Gulf situation.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN1410124590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 14 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister [of Iraq], met here today with Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui.

During the meeting, the first deputy prime minister affirmed Iraq's honest eagerness to bring about comprehensive and full peace in the Arab region in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August which seeks to resolve all problems in the Middle East region.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed the facts pertaining to the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against the Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and its links to the plots against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

Ramadan paid tribute to the honorable pan-Arab position taken by the Tunisian masses represented by their professional, partisan, and popular organizations and bodies—a position which reflects the noble pan-Arab sentiments of the people of fraternal Tunisia, their commitment to pan-Arab causes, and their readiness to defend these causes.

Dr. Hamed Karoui affirmed the need to continue Arab and international efforts to resolve the Arabian Gulf crisis, to establish security and stability in the region, and to spare it the catastrophes that might result from a devastating war.

The Tunisian prime minister praised the fraternal ties existing between the two fraternal states in the interest of the two fraternal peoples under the leadership of Presidents Saddam Husayn and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Boulares, members of the delegation accompanying Taha Yasin Ramadan, and Iraqi ambassador in Tunis Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi.

Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived here from Tripoli earlier in the day carrying a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region.

Ben Ali, French Foreign Minister Discuss Gulf

LD1510091390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] This afternoon at the Republic Palace in Carthage President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Foreign Minister Habib Boulares and the French ambassador to Tunisia also attended.

Following the meeting, Roland Dumas said that he conveyed a verbal message from the French president which is described as a message of friendship and a reminder of the exchanges between the two countries, especially the French president's distinguished visit to Tunisia and also President Ben Ali's state visit to France.

Dumas added that the meeting also touched on bilateral relations which he described as distinguished and friendly. He pointed out that all the current projects are witnessing normal progress. He said they reviewed the international situation beginning with the problems which concern us all—the problems in the Gulf—and added that Tunisia plays an important role in the international arena, especially at this point, and in this region of the world which is facing well-known events.

Answering a question on whether there was any relation between this meeting and the meeting this morning between President Ben Ali and Iraqi envoy Taha Yasin Ramadan, the French minister said it was a mere coincidence. He pointed out, however, that the president briefed him on the situation in the Gulf. Naturally this account took into consideration his talks with officials, especially Iraqi officials.

On whether he found President Ben Ali optimistic, Roland Dumas said the president is by nature an optimist. At the same time he objectively analyzes conditions in the world and the fact that issues are complicated to the extent that settling them does not depend on an optimistic or a pessimistic view. Rather, matters should be taken as they are, very objectively.

Foreign Minister Boulares met this afternoon with Roland Dumas. After the meeting, Dumas expressed satisfaction with the excellent French-Tunisian relations and pointed to the existance of important Tunisian and French concurrence on approaches to a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. He said they dealt with issues in bilateral relations and it was agreed that these relations are excellent. They also noted that all the projects envisaged during previous visits by French officials to Tunisia, especially President Mitterrand's, have seen the light in good conditions and are growing in a manner satisfactory to both sides.

Dumas added that the old projects which require special settlement enjoy both sides' interest and are progressing in a normal, positive manner. He went on to say that they both expressed their satisfaction with the excellent relations between the two countries. They also dealt with the financial aspects of relations and with the higher French-Tunisian joint committee which they plan to convene in the first week of December.

The French minster added that both sides mentioned the Gulf crisis. He explained that he will continue to study the problem with President Ben Ali during his meeting with the president. Dumas answered affirmatively to a question on whether the Tunisian proposals for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis were raised during his talks with Boulares, and added that they also studied President Mitterrand's proposals made at the UN rostrum. They noted the existance of important common points between the two approaches.

34 Fundamentalists Jailed After Demonstrations

NC1510125890 Paris AFP in English 1952 GMT 14 Oct 90

[text] Tunis, Oct 14 (AFP)—A court has jailed 34 Muslim fundamentalists here for between six and eighteen months after they demonstrated despite an official ban and clashed with the police, Muslim sources said Sunday [14 October].

The sentences were handed down Saturday, two days after seven fundamentalists had been imprisoned for six months following a public protest.

Another 18 people are to stand trial Thursday [18 October].

Protestors have repeatedly taken to the streets and clashed with the police since the death early last month of a youth who distributed religious leaflets near the Ibn-Khaldun mosque.

The Interior Ministry said he was hit by a stray bullet when police fired warning shots to scare off several youths attacking their car.

Bahrain

French Foreign Minister Dumas Hold Talks on Gulf

Meets Counterpart

JN1610155690 Manama WAKH in English 1625 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, Oct 15 (GNA)—The official round of talks was held here today between Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and French Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Roland Dumas. They discussed prospects of enhancing and strengthening bilateral cooperation, mainly in the economic field by activating the joint committee for economic and industrial cooperation and the joint committee for cultural and technical cooperation.

They also discussed the dangerous developments in the Gulf region resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, regional and international measures to confront Iraq's threat to the Gulf states, as well as the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. They called for the restoration of the legitimate government led by H.H. the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and a solution to the Middle East crisis and the Lebanese problem.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN1610203990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 15 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, met this afternoon with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas who is currently visiting Manama.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the developments in the Arab Gulf that were brought about by the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait. The French foreign minister briefed his highness the Bahraini prime minister on the French position on these developments, saying that the dangers on the horizon of the Gulf region not only threaten the countries of the region but also threaten international peace and stability.

The French foreign minister also told his highness the prime minister that France is committed to applying the Security Council resolutions and bolstering the economic blockade on Iraq to force it to withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

The Bahraini prime minister stressed the importance of consultations and the exchange of opinions between leaders and officials of the two countries. His highness also expressed Bahrain's appreciation of France's positions and its positive participation in opposing the dangers created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah stressed the importance of abiding by the Security Council resolutions calling for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy there. The two sides also discussed the importance of developing and promoting the distinguished bilateral ties in all spheres, especially in the economic and cultural areas. They also emphasized the importance of bolstering cooperation among the countries of the world to eradicate all forms of terrorism.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifa AL Khalifah, interior minister; and Pierre Boillot, French ambassador in Manama.

Leaves for Oman

JN1610204690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 16 Oct (WAKH)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his delegation left Manama for Oman this morning after a two-day visit to Bahrain within a regional tour. In a statement to WAKH, the French minister said that his talks in Bahrain dealt with all aspects of the crisis in the Gulf resulting from the continued Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. He added that he explained to the officials in Bahrain his country's firm stand on the crisis and the need for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the return of legitimacy to Kuwait, and the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the economic embargo imposed on Iraq. He noted that there is no solution as long as Iraq does not abide by the Security Council resolutions calling for withdrawal from Kuwait and the release of the foreign hostages.

Dumas said that he was acquainted with the stand of Bahrain on the crisis. This stand supports the French position. He noted that his talks with officials in Bahrain also dealt with other issues, such as the Middle East crisis, the Palestine question, the recent developments in Lebanon, and France's position on these developments. He said he also reviewed the good relations between the two friendly countries, expressing his satisfaction with the progress and development in the Bahraini-French relations in all fields.

In his statement, he wished His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, good health and a swift recovery from his illness.

Kuwait

Popular Conference Concludes, Issues Communique

LD1610131490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 15 Oct (SPA)—The Kuwaiti popular conference concluded its meetings this evening in Jeddah under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait.

At the beginning of the final session, the conferees listened to the messages addressed to the conference from various international institutions and organizations. After that a message of the children of Kuwait was read. It included a review of the sufferings of Kuwaiti children under Iraqi occupation. [passage omitted]

The secretary of the drafting committee, Dr. Nasir al-Sani', read the final communique:

Praise be to the lord and peace and prayers for the most honored of messengers, our master the prophet Muhammad, and for his family and all his companions.

God has stated in his holy book: Leave is given to those who fight because they were wronged. Surely God is able to help those who are expelled from their homes wrongfully if they say our Lord is God. Had God not driven back the people, by some means or others, cloisters, churches, oratories, and mosques wherein God's name is much mentioned would have been destroyed. Assuredly, God will help him who helps God. Surely God is all strong and almighty. Verily God speaks the truth.

We the sons and representatives of all official and public factions and organizations and national establishments, met at our Kuwaiti popular conference held in Jeddah, in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, from 24 to 26 Rabi' Al-Awwal 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 13 to 15 October 1990. Liberation is our motto, our course, and our objective, under the patronage of the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in response to the call of the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah.

We reviewed all the events and developments which have taken place in our beloved homeland and in the Arab and international arenas since the launching by the Iraqi regime on 11 Muharram 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 2 August 1990, of its treacherous aggression on the State of Kuwait, the occupation of Kuwaiti teerritory, and the unjust and wrong announcement of Kuwaiti annexation to Iraq.

We took into consideration the speech delivered by the emir of Kuwait at the opening of our conference and the speech delivered by the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. We also noted the speeches by conferees delivered on their behalf by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saqr. These speeches have been accepted as official documents of the conference. The conferees hope they will become the guidelines for governmental work in Kuwait. Taking into consideration all the discussions and deliberations during the conference, we have decided the following:

1. We announce to the whole world our firm rejection of the Iraqi regime's occupation of Kuwait, and our condemnation of that occupation as a criminal aggression against the independent sovereign Kuwait, which is a member of the Arab League, the United Nations, and other international organizations. It is considered a blatant violation of all international laws and charters, especially the Arab League Charter and the UN Charter.

2. We announce to the whole world that all the claims and allegations presented by the Iraqi regime in justification of its crime of invading the occupying the independent Kuwait are false and invalid. We stress our firm rejection of these claims and allegations which contradict the truth and reality and are refuted by history.

3. We announce to the whole world our condemnation and hatred of all the acts of murder, oppression, torture, and terrorism committed by the Iraqi regime forces against the innocent, unarmed civilian citizens of Kuwait and other fraternal and friendly countries. This includes acts against women and children, and all the looting and rampage, including that a hospitals and schools. We call on all the peoples of the world to condemn these inhuman practices.

4. We announce to the whole world our commitment to the regime chosen by our people since our beginning—a regime accepted by consecutive generations. We stress that all the Kuwaiti people—men, women, elderly, youth, and children—are completely united behind our legitimate leadership represented by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his heir apparent, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah—may God protect them.

5. We promise God, ourselves, and the sons of our people, those who are standing firm inside our beloved Kuwait and those who are struggling outside it, that liberation will be our aim, return will be our goal, the emir will be our leader, jihad will be our means, national unity will be our weapon, and death in the cause of God will be our highest aspiration until, with God's help, we achieve victory and purge from country the desecration of the invading aggressors.

6. We salute the steadfastness of the sons of our people in our beloved Kuwait and their heroic struggle against the criminal occupation forces and their brave resistance which we and the whole world are following with admiration and pride. We salute their sacrifices which clear the road to liberation for us. We stress to them that they are not standing alone in the face of the unjust in Iraqi clique. We are standing united behind them and all the peace-loving peoples who reject aggression who are supporting us in our struggle for liberation our country, defeating the invaders, and expelling the aggressors in confirmation of God's words: "O ye who believe! Maintain patience and constancy, vie in such perseverance, strengthen each other; and fear God, that ye may prosper." God has spoken the truth.

7. We call on all the sons of the Kuwaiti people outside our beloved country to work, each in his field and place and as much as he is able, for the liberation of our homeland and the expulsion of the invading aggressors from our homeland.

8. We announce to the whole world that the Kuwaiti people have been since the establishment of Kuwait and will, God willing, forever remain a united, loving, solid family which shows solidarity for better and for worse. Even if the view of its members vary and their concepts

differ, they will remain within the boundaries of the united family. The love of Kuwait brings them closer together, and loyalty and faithfulness to it closes their ranks.

9. We declare to the whole world that we will accept no bargaining or negotiations over the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Kuwait. We affirm our categorical rejection of any solution that falls short of the complete implementation of the resolutions of the Arab emergency summit conference held in Cairo on 19 Muharram 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 10 August 1990, and the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council, all of which declare rejection and condemnation of the Iraqi aggression on the independent State of Kuwait and of its annexation by force and all of which insist on the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territory and affirm their support for the Kuwaiti legitimate authority.

10. We appeal to the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the International Red Cross, the International League of the Red Crescent and the Red Cross societies, the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies, Amnesty International, the Human Rights Organization, and all the world humanitarian organizations to exert their utmost efforts to bring pressure to bear on the Iraqi regime to alleviate the suffering and inhumane treatment of Kuwaiti nationals and other foreign nationals living in our country at the hands of the Iraqi occupation forces. We call on these organizations to do all they can to send delegates to protect the Kuwaiti nationals and those living in Kuwait from the brutality and acts of intimidation and persecution committed by the Iraqi occupation forces.

11. We appeal to the Security Council and the international community to act with maximum speed to end the Iraqi measures which are aimed at the elimination of Kuwait's political identity, the obliteration of its historic landmarks and its national and cultural identity, and the changing of its population structure by forcing its people to leave and replacing them by foreign troops to live in their homes and settle in their land.

12. We call upon the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution permitting the international society to use all available means for the implementation of the council's resolutions in a manner which will guarantee the withdrawal of the Iraqi occupation forces from the State of Kuwait and enable the legitimate authorities from returning to Kuwait. We appeal in particular to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, in view of the large responsibilities they shoulder toward the international community, to facilitate the adoption of such a resolution.

13. We call on the fraternal Arab countries, which for some reason or other did not respond to the principles of right and justice of rejecting the aggression, to reconsider their position in the light of the teachings of the Islamic faith, pan-Arab principles, Arab ethics, and human values, to ask their consciences and join the international unanimity which is working toward fulfilling what is right and removing what is wrong. There is no doubt that they will find in the end that the just, brave, principled stance is better and more rewarding.

14. We stress that the stance of some Palestinian leaderships will not affect our firm solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just struggle for the liberation of their homeland and restoration of their usurped rights. This is because of our confidence that the Palestinian people, with all their sacrifices, ideals, and principles, could never be satisfied with or convinced of the stance of these leaderships which stem from their personal interests and which harm primarily the Palestinian cause, the credibility of the Palestinian struggle, and the interests of the Palestinian people.

15. We announce that in spite of our pains, wounds, and the disaster and suffering caused to our people by the criminal aggression of the Iraqi regime, we do not bear any evil intentions towards or hatred for the fraternal Iraqi people. We are fully convinced that they are awaiting helplessly the hour of salvation from the tyrant of Baghdad and his unjust clique who are torturing the people and who dragged them into a fierce futile war against the Muslim Iranian people, which claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of the sons of both peoples and exhausted their resources and their national wealth. Today this clique is dragging the Iraqi people into a loosing confrontation against the whole world, which will bring to the Iraqi people nothing but destruction and the death of more of their sons.

16. We express our deep gratitude for their verbal and physical support to all the fraternal and friendly people and countries which stand by Kuwait against the treacherous aggression of the Iraqi regime. We stress that the future generations of Kuwaiti people will keep remembering this just and brave stance with appreciation and gratitude.

17. We express our thanks to the international community and its peoples, represented by the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council, because of the adopted resolutions and measures which stress the rejection and condemnation of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, state the necessity of the immediate unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territories, and stress their support for the restoration of the legitiamte authority in Kuwait. We also laud the sincere efforts exerted by the UN secretary general and the representatives of the UN Security Council member-countries for this purpose.

18. We express our deep gratitude to the leaders, governments, and peoples of the fraternal and friendly Arab countries which opened their hearts, homes, and territories to host and look after the Kuwaiti citizens who were there at the time of the brutal Iraqi aggression or moved there in its wake. As we salute this generous fraternal

stance of gallantry, we pray to God that He will reward them the best for what they have been doing for Kuwait and its people.

19. We express our gratitude and thanks to the king, government, and people of Saudi Arabia for hosting our conference and providing the necessary services and facilities for its convention and work. We pray to God that our meeting on this sacred land may provide a good beginning for a blessed march toward the liberation of our country and restoration of our usurped land.

20. We stress that after the achievement of God's victory over the unjust clique and the liberation of our land from the desecration of the criminal Iraqi regime's occupation, God willing, we will rebuild our beloved Kuwait, the Kuwait of the future, the Kuwait of the united family on two principal bases:

First, our society is based on basic constants, the most important of which is the Islamic faith and adherence to it. The new Kuwaiti house should concentrate on the Islamic character of education, ethics, and practice to bring up a generation that believes in God, understands the greatness of Islam and its firmness in what is right and its tolerance in the dealings between people, understands the meanings and stances of Islam here and there, is open to the world and to its inventions, upholds God's call wisely and through good example, and manages to coexist with others and their thoughts. Our society is also based on the Arab belonging in its history, feelings, and higher interests. Our society has a human tendency which rejects injustice and condemns it and supports what is right and fights for it. Our society is a beacon of thought, civilization, and giving which contributes to the progress and growth of the brothers, friends, and all peoples and believes in its humane and civilized role.

Second, the Kuwaiti people are committed to their national unity and legitimate regime which they chose and are satisfied with.

God is great. Glory be to Kuwait. May God be our witness in what we have said.

In a comment on the final communique, the Kuwaiti heir apparent said: "We all listened to the final communique, which is a message to the ruler of Baghdad and his aides to hear that the sons of Kuwait have announced their clear and explicit stance and their rejection of the occupation."

He added: We swear to God to sacrifice everything for our beloved Kuwait. God is great. We will be victorious.

Mr. Yusuf al-Hijji delivered the speech of the conferees. He stressed that the conference expresses the cohesion of the sons of Kuwait and their support for the legitimacy of the government represented by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah also delivered a speech. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Holds News Conference in Jeddah

LD1610211990 Riyahd Television Service in Arabic 1912 GMT 16 Oct 90

[News conference by Kuwait Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al'Salim al-Sabah on 16 October at the "Conference Palace" in Jeddah with unidentified reporters; from the "State of Kuwait Television Message"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Sa'ad] However, I tell you, and let the ruler of Baghdad listen, that my brothers, the sons of my homeland, will not respond to or execute Saddam's decisions. The message of the people's conference, with all its members, has come to explain to the world in general, and to Saddam in particular, the Kuwaiti people's determination to struggle, combat, stand fast, and to not implement Saddam's decisions, whatever the cost. The Kuwaiti people believe in their right to an honorable life, believe in living in dignity and honour as no other people, and in maintaining the integrity, independence, and sovereignty of their country. [passage omitted] The sons of Kuwait, the sons of the heroic men who have sacrificed everything for the sake of Kuwait's independence are the grandchildren and sons of heroes. They will continue to follow the path drawn for us by our fathers and grandfathers to safeguard our dear country, whatever the cost. I assure you that the day will come when Saddam will withdraw his forces from Iraq [country as heard] peacefully or by war.

It is regrettable and painful that some Arab countries have abandoned principles and have concerned themselves with interest. They abandoned values for material gains. They supported Saddam directly or indirectly in his invasion of Kuwait. I ask the heads of these states to reassess their stances and follow closely with us the oppression and acts of great savagery suffered by the Kuwaiti people. Let them remember the financial support offered by the Kuwaiti people to these states and peoples to assist them in development projects in various fields.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Shaykh Sa'ad] I would not be broadcasting a secret if I say that after the Iraqi invasion, we started to reform and train the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. Without going into details about this military issue, I would say that the units whose training has been completed have taken up their position with the joint forces. I hope that the Kuwaiti military forces will be in the forefront of these forces to liberate my homeland, Kuwait.

[Reporter, in English] Are you satisfied with the degree of participation of your government in all the details of decision making, espcially in military and [words indistinct]?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] My reply to this question is that we are satisfied and happy with all the recommendations adopted by the people's conference over the past few days. Relations between us and the nonaligned countries continue. These countries have condemned the Iraqi aggression and demanded the withdrawal of Iraqi forces, and they support the return of the legitimate authority.

Paper AL-WATAN To Publish in London

NC0710191990 Cairo MENA in English 1745 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 7 (MENA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper "AL WATAN" is to reappear in London within the coming days, editor in chief of the newspaper Muhammad Masa'id al-Salih said shortly before leaving here for Jeddah.

He added that an international edition will be issued in Cairo and another one in the US. He added that during his three-day visit to Cairo he met with Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad and discussed re-issuance of the newspaper.

Oman

Diplomatic Ties Established With Czechoslovakia

NC1510192290 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Oct 90

["Text" of statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in Muscat on 15 October]

[Text] The Sultanate of Oman and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, inspired by the desire to promote friendship and cooperation in various fields between the two countries, decided to establish diplomatic relations as of the date on which this joint statement is signed and to exchange diplomatic representation at the ambassadorial level.

The relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic will be based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect of sovereignty, and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of each country. The relations will also be based on mutual benefit and equality in accordance with the UN Charter.

The Sultanate of Oman and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, while signing this joint statement, express the hope that these diplomatic relations will contribute to promoting the ties of friendship and cooperation for the benefit of the two countries' interest.

The agreement was signed today during a meeting between Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Richard Wagner, adviser to the president of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, who is currently visiting the country. The two sides discussed relations between the two friendly countries and issues of mutual interest.

French Foreign Minister Arrives in Oman 16 Oct

On One-Day Visit

JN1610205290 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his delegation arrived in the country this morning on a one-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He was received upon arrival at the Salalah Airport by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the French ambassador to the Oman.

Delivers Mitterrand Message

JN1610210590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Salalah, 16 Oct (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has received an oral message from French President Francois Mitterrand. The message was conveyed by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who was received by the sultan here today.

Gives News Conference With Bin-'Alawi

JN1610205790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 16 Oct (WAKH)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has said that his country and the Sultanate of Oman prefer a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. Roland Dumas said at a news conference here with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, that during his meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman talks dealt with the Gulf crisis and the hope to reach a peaceful solution to it. He noted that the views of the two countries are identical in this respect. He noted that the most important topics discussed with His Majesty Sultan Qabus centered on the post-crisis period.

Dumas announced that French President Francois Mitterrand will visit Oman in the near future in response to the visit to France by His Majesty Sultan Qabus last year. He said the visit will give new momentum to relations between the two countries on the highest levels.

The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs praised the French position the crisis and its unique role that always seeks to underline the principles of the UN Charter and its concern to implement UN resolutions. He added that, with the same level of concern, France has participated effectively in dispatching its forces to the region to protect security and stability and has responded to requests made by countries friendly to France.

The Omani minister added that France's concern to implement the UN resolutions gladdens us, because the French Government continues to search for all opportunities that might produce peaceful solution to this problem. He said that we agree on uniting the international community behind the UN resolutions to reach a peaceful solution, not for the sake of war, because we are responsible for peace and we are trying to achieve peace.

Holds News Conference in Salalah

NC1610194990 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] His Exalted Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received his excellency French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at his majesty's office in al-Hisn palace today. The French foreign minister brought an oral message from French President Francois Mitterrand. Present at the meeting were Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the French ambassador to the Sultanate.

Meanwhile, a round of official talks was held between Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in Salalah this afternoon. The two sides discussed the relations between the two friendly countries and the current situation in the Gulf region.

The French minister said that His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand will soon visit the Sultanate in reply to the visit to France last year by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. This was revealed during the joint news conference held this evening by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and His Excellency Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah.

Dumas said that the French president's visit will further promote the friendly relations between the two countries. He said he was honored by his meeting with His Majesty Qabus Bin-Sa'id. He said the talks during the meeting dealt with the relations between the two friendly countries. Dumas expressed satisfaction with the tangible progress in these relations.

During the news conference, Dumas said the talks with his majesty the Sultan also touched on the Gulf crisis and the hopes pinned on emerging with a peaceful solution. He pointed in this regard to the identity of views between the Sultanate and France on the issue. Dumas said: We both hope that the solution to this crisis will be peaceful—a solution preferred by the Sultanate and France. Dumas noted that the most important points discussed with his majesty the Sultan concern the post-crisis era. He added that in view of its traditions, geographical location, and political line, the Sultanate is concerned with all endeavors made to establish stability and peace in this region.

For his part, Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah expressed satisfaction with the French foreign minister's visit to the Sultanate, adding: We have discussed the current problem in the Gulf and exchanged views on this problem. His excellency praised the French stand on the crisis and its unique role in emphasizing the principles of the UN Charter and its full desire to implement all the UN resolutions. He said: Equally, France has effectively participated by sending troops to the region to safeguard peace and stability in response to requests by countries friendly to France.

The minister of state for foreign affairs went on to say that France's desire to implement the UN resolutions makes us happy that France continues to search for all prospects that would solve this problem peacefully. He added: We have agreed that the international community should unanimously support the UN resolutions for the sake of a peaceful solution and not for the sake of war. We are responsible for the issue of peace and we make efforts in this regard.

The minister of state foreign affairs noted that his talks with the French foreign minister dealt with the relations between the Sultanate and France. He said: We have made big strides in promoting these relations since his majesty the Sultan's visit to France last year. He added that his majesty the Sultan and the Omani people look forward to the French president's upcoming visit to the Sultanate, stressing that the visit will further strengthen the relations. His excellency the minister said that the two countries will resume exchanges and consultations during the next stage for they hold a common understanding regarding the Gulf crisis.

Asked if the economic embargo will be enough to make President Saddam Husayn leave Kuwait, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: I believe that his Excellency President Saddam Husayn is a political figure enjoying a high level of responsibility. I also believe that the international community will unanimously agree on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions in a definite manner. We hope that President Saddam Husayn will join the other world leaders in their efforts to guarantee the UN principles which represent the base for security and peace.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left the country tonight following a one-day visit to the Sultanate, during which he met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the French ambassador to the Sultanate saw the French minister off at Salalah airport.

Leaves Oman, Ends Gulf Tour

LD1610193190 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Roland Dumas has ended his trip to the Gulf. He left the Sultanate of Oman this evening. While there he conveyed a message from Francois Mitterrand to the sultan. Prior to this the foreign minister visited Tunis, Qatar, and Bahrain.

Qatar

Turkish President Arrives in Qatar 15 Oct

On Gulf Tour

JN1610213790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1248 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 15 Oct (WAKH)—Turkish President Turgut Ozal arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi at noon today on an official two-day visit to Qatar within a tour of the region during which he has visited Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY said the Turkish president will hold talks during his visit with Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah and with senior Qatari officials on bilateral relations and means to promote them in various fields, in addition to the current crisis in the Gulf and issues of interest to the two countries on Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

Reviews Results of Gulf Trip

TA1510165590 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1620 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Doha (A.A) [dateline as received]—President Turgut Ozal who arrived in Qatar earlier on Monday on the third leg of a tour to five Arab states held a press conference here in the afternoon. Ozal said that the Gulf countries have increased their level of prosperity by using their resources and money effectively, while the Iraqi people, with similar wealth and resources had been in a difficult position for ten years because of war.

Ozal criticized Iraq's claim to Kuwait and said, "it is not right to claim that this place (Kuwait) once belonged to Iraq as a justification because in this case every country could demand land from another and this would be wrong." Ozal called the UN sanctions against Iraq "just" and said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait should definitely be thwarted.

He added that no concessions should be made in the application of the UN sanctions. "As U.S. President (George) Bush has said, the UN decisions should be applied effectively and Iraq should be made to realize the situation. Any concessions would create a danger of war."

On his contacts in the United Arab Emirates earlier on Monday, Ozal said that he had asked UAE head of state Shaykh Zayid Bin- Sultan Al Nuayyan for the UAE to increase its present oil supply of 50,000 barrels per day to Turkey and to facilitate payment terms. "I hope that we shall obtain a favorable result, just as was the case with Saudi Arabia," he said.

Ozal told reporters on Sunday that during talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz he had asked Fahd to facilitate conditions for Turkey in buying Saudi oil.

Turkey has been making new arrangements for its oil requirements after it joined the international embargo against Iraq, Turkey's previous biggest petroleum supplier, following the August 2 invasion of Kuwait by Baghdad. Ankara is currently importing part of its oil requirement from Saudi Arabia.

Ozal said he urged Saudi Arabia to meet a greater portion of Turkey's petrol needs. Official talks between delegations from Turkey and Qatar are scheduled to take place on Tuesday. It is expected that the talks will take the form of an evaluation of the crisis in the Gulf and deal with ways of stepping up bilateral economic relations.

It is also reported that the talks will look at the possibility of Turkish workers filling the positions of Palestinian guest workers expelled from Qatar in view of the crisis. Ozal who visited Saudi Arabia on Saturday-Sunday and the UAE on Sunday and early Monday will also pay similar one-day visits to Egypt and Syria after his contacts in Qatar.

Confers With Amir, Departs

TA1610115290 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] President Turgut Ozal, who is touring various Middle Eastern countries, has ended his contacts in Qatar. He is now on his way to Egypt. In Doha this morning, President Ozal met with the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad al Thani. They held an extensive exchange of views on the Gulf crisis. It was announced that the two sides share the same views on the issue. The amir expressed Qatar's pleasure with Turkey's Gulf policy. He said that with the crisis, Turkey's credibility and prestige has increased and that this will open new horizons in the relations between the Gulf states and Turkey.

The two sides also discussed bilateral issues. Within this framework, they discussed economic, commercial, and industrial cooperation, increasing mutual investments, and purchasing natural gas. They decided that a Turkish technical delegation will visit Qatar for talks on the issues of investments and natural gas. President Ozal then left Qatar on his way to Egypt. He was seen off by the amir at Doha Airport.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Congratulates Gorbachev on Nobel Prize

LD1710030590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2047 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Oct (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has sent a message to His Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev. Here is the text of the message:

Your Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the USSR, Moscow. It is a source of pleasure for me to take the occasion of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to your excellency to express to you my most sincere congratulations and my best wishes on this award, which is an international recognition of your personal role in ending the cold war; in working for disarmament and for the establishment of a new order of relations, in which harmony and cooperation prevail among states and peoples; and in working for the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means and constructive dialogue, which will achieve security and stability for all the states and peoples in the world. Please accept my profound greetings and appreciation.

[Signed] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd Receives Kuwaiti Prime Minister

LD1610205490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Oct (SPA)—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, today received at his office in Al-Salam Palace His Highness shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister of the sisterly state of Kuwait, and his accompanying delegation of members of the Kuwaiti People's Congress.

The reception was attended by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' ambassador to the State of Kuwait, 'Abdallah al-Sederi.

King Fahd Receives Message From Mitterrand

LD1610222590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1647 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from French President Francois Mitterrand. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Jacques Berniere, the French ambassador to the Kingdom, when the king received him at his office in al-Salam Palace today.

Foreign Minister Discusses Gulf Crisis, Saddam

AU1510162090 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 15 Oct 90 pp 190-191

[Interview with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud by Adel S. Elias in Bonn; date not given: "Allah May Enlighten Him"]

[Text] [Elias] Your Highness, will there be war?

[Al-Faysal] It has already broken out. On 2 August the Iraqi troops attacked Kuwait. Since then they have continued this war day by day: through lootings, rape, and violations of peaceful coexistence. Thus, the question is not whether there will be war but whether this region will return to its previous way of life when the war ends. The answer does not lie with us Saudis....

[Elias] ...but with the Iraqis?

[Al-Faysal] Certainly. The question is whether they are ready to withdraw from Kuwait and to let the legitimate government act again.

[Elias] Are you still optimistic in this respect?

[Sa'ud] We do not have any indications that give us hope for a political or peaceful solution to the crisis. Not even the intensive efforts of the Soviet Union, which is friendly with Iraq, have had any results. Mikhail Gorbachev even sent his personal adviser Yevgeniy Primakov to Baghdad. As we have learned from the Soviets, Primakov got the impression that Saddam does not even dream of ever leaving Kuwait.

[Elias] For Saddam Husayn, Kuwait is a closed chapter about which he will not negotiate?

[Al-Faysal] Exactly. He will not retreat one millimeter. He has annexed Kuwait. He has Iraqicized Kuwait. He rejects any negotiations on this topic. He is determined to stand up against international law and against the community of peoples.

[Elias] The economic boycott has not had much effect so far. Are other measures now necessary?

[Al-Faysal] I can only say: I hope that the boycott will force him to withdraw from Kuwait quickly so that other measures do not have to be resorted to. If the boycott remains ineffective, the Iraqi leadership will be the only loser.

[Elias] Can one still imagine a diplomatic solution according to which the Iraqis would get the two islands off Kuwait's coast so that they have better access to the Gulf as well a an interest-free loan from the Arab oil states?

[Al-Faysal] We will not negotiate on any of these issues as long as a single Iraqi soldier stands on Kuwaiti territory.

[Elias] The Iraqi people seem to agree with their leadership that it was time to finally bring Kuwait home.

[Al-Faysal] Give the Iraqis the chance of saying freely what they think about this crisis. I am not convinced that the Iraqi population agrees with the actions of its leadership.

[Elias] Baghdad claims that Saudi politicians are lying when they state that Iraq intended to attack Saudi Arabia. They were only looking for an excuse to call the United States in to help.

[Al-Faysal] Can Iraq deny that more than 200,000 Iraqi soldiers are standing in Kuwait? Can Iraq deny that another 200,000 Iraqi fighters have moved to the Kuwait-Saudi border? Did Iraq have to mobilize 1 million fighters to occupy Kuwait?

[Elias] Perhaps Baghdad only wanted to intimidate you so that you would not come to Kuwait's defense?

[Al-Faysal] It is also a fact that Iraq has accepted all conditions for peace posed by Iran in order to transfer its troops from the Iranian-Iraqi border to the Saudi Arabian border.

[Elias] Iraq alone is to blame for everything?

[Al-Faysal] Permit me to answer with a question in return: Who gave Iraq any reason to invade Kuwait? We Saudis? Or the United States? Did we occupy Iraqi territory? Whoever claims something like this is turning the truth upside down.

[Elias] How long can Saudi Arabia tolerate the presence of U.S. troops on its territory?

[Al-Faysal] Do you know what is intolerable? The presence of Iraqi troops in Kuwait, because these troops are invasion forces. In this region there are no other invasion forces but those of Iraq. The U.S. troops, on the other hand, were called in by us because Iraq is threatening us.

[Elias] Saddam Husayn has proclaimed a holy war to liberate the holy sites of Islam in Saudi Arabia from the infidels.

[Sa'ud] That liar and hypocrite! He is really the last one to ever proclaim a holy war. He has not done anything for the Islamic and the Arab cause, on the contrary. The Iraqi leadership led by Saddam Husayn has only brought misery to the Arabs and the Muslims. The current Iraqi leaders are unique! There is no other leadership in the world that has such bloody hands, that has desecrated so many holy sites—be they Islamic ones or others.

[Elias] After the massacre in Jerusalem, Saddam threatened Israel with missiles. Thus, he again linked the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian question. Has he not come a bit closer to his goal in this way?

[Al-Faysal] I regret very much that the Iraqi leadership is trying to link these two conflicts. If Baghdad says that it will withdraw its troops only if Israel disappears from the Arab territories, Baghdad is pretending as though Kuwait were Israeli territory. Whoever demands something like this, basically does not want Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories—on the contrary: He wants Israel to stay there so that he has an excuse to leave the Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

[Elias] Let us assume that there will not be any peaceful solution to liberate Kuwait, but war: Do you believe that this war can be limited to Kuwait or will it spread to the entire region?

[Al-Faysal] I am pessimistic. The policy of the leadership in Baghdad will lead to a disaster for the Iraqi population in the end. We esteem the Iraqi people highly. They are a noble people. We are trying to spare them this disaster. We are even trying to spare the Iraqi troops. In particular our country was massively and generously involved in making this Army as efficient and strong as it is today.

[Elias] You regret this now?

[Al-Faysal] Unfortunately, the Iraqi leadership is blind and deaf and no longer listens to reason. On the other hand, I am optimistic because of the support not only by the majority of the Arabs but also by the world community. We Arabs must keep in mind that an occupation remains an occupation, even if it is carried out by Arabs. If we Arabs want to be one nation, a decent, civilized nation, we have to change our behavior. Let us take Germany as an example: One people and governments on both sides took their responsibility seriously. In this way, the Germans regained their unity without firing one single shot.

[Elias] How do you assess Saddam Husayn? Can you imagine that he will set the entire region on fire?

[Al-Faysal] The Iraqi leadership under Saddam Husayn is driving the Arabs into an adventure and one does not know how it will end. First, he waged an eight-year war against Iran, destroyed hundreds of thousands of people and billions in Islamic and Arab wealth. After the end of this war we hoped for a new era of peace in this region. But what is Saddam doing? He gives us new risks, which are completely unnecessary. We can only hope that Allah may perhaps enlighten him at the last moment.

Paper Welcomes Iran's 'Language of Normalization'

PM1110161190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Oct 90 p15

[Ghassan Shirbil article: "Iran of the Eighties and Iran of the Nineties"]

[Text] The Council of Experts elections, the attitude to the Gulf crisis, the normalization of relations with some Western states, and the assistance in releasing hostages held in Lebanon are signals from Tehran that the Iran of the nineties will be different from the Iran of the eighties.

Exclusion of the hardline symbols from the Council of Experts race gives an advance picture of the kind of powers the council is to be given, and it also gives President Hashemi-Rafsanjani a new mandate to continue what he started while at the same time giving a point in his favor in the tug of war that has been going on since Khomeyni's death. The fact that Iran's guide has favored exclusion of the symbols of intransigence shows the extent of the convinction reached that the hardline logic which was the essence of Iranian policy had plunged the country into a crisis it could no longer overcome without abandoning the logic which led to it.

The fact that the balance was tipped in Rafsanjani's favor was really what enabled Tehran to formulate a stance on the Gulf crisis close to international legitimacy, after some clear struggle over priorities. It is as if Tehran, by taking such a stance, wanted to apply for membership of the international community through the legitimate channel. In the eighties, Tehran's language was a clear violation of the international vocabularly used at the time.

So, Iran shifts from the position of one who gives himself the right to export fire, set examples, and change foreign regimes to a position that banks less on such methods than on respect for border demarcation lines and for the will of nations and their right to determine their own course.

The same applies to the file of Western hostages in Lebanon, with the circulating reports that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati intends to visit Beirut. In the eighties Iran entered Lebanon across fluid borders and without anyone's permission. It entered with the mentality of one bent on exporting revolution and revolutionary legitimacy as if Lebanon were an arena, not a state. Velayati's visit to Beirut, if it takes place, will mark a return to the era when people entered Lebanon legally through Beirut. This second entry is supposed to remedy the effects of the first entry and would constitute a recognition of the Lebanese legitimate authority and a renunciation of the logic of concluding agreements on presence within Lebanese borders in the absence of Lebanon's legitimate authority.

In all these open files from the Gulf to Lebanon, Iran has so far chosen the language of normalization, not escalation. It has taken up the Iraqi offer but has not become captive to it. It has addressed the crisis without forgetting to calculate what would follow and formulate some concept for clearly tackling the cause and at the same time taking a stand on the results.

Perhaps the most important factor linking all these signals is Tehran's feeling that what was suitable for the eighties is no longer suitable today. After a decade of hostage taking and violation of borders comes a decade of release of hostages—states and individuals. It is a decade of coming under the umbrella of international legitimacy.

'Responsible Source' Comments on Yemeni Speech

LD1610040390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Commenting on the contents of a speech delivered yesterday by Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bidh before a battalion of Yemeni servicemen, and quoted by AFP, a Saudi responsible source told SPA today:

It is truly regrettable that we should have to again refute the confusion and misinterpretation of facts that emanate from some officials, including his excellency's having said that the measures taken concerning Yemeni expatriates constituted a violation of international rules, laws, and norms. We say that if his excellency was referring to those Yemeni expatriates who were deported from Iraqi and Kuwaiti territory by the ruler of Baghdad after their wealth was usurped, their belongings confiscated, and their honor violated, going back to Sanaa in the worst state, then that is his business with his citizens. If, however, he was referring to the legal measures adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in abolishing the administrative facilities enjoyed by the sons of the Yemeni community resident in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, perhaps his excellency has not yet examined the statements made by a responsible source, explaining that the Kingdom has not expelled the Yemenis and had not harmed the wealth or belongings of any of them. All that has happened is that the Kingdom has equalled the Yemenis and their brother residents with regards to (words garbled) rights and duties. Those who left the kingdom did so of their own free will, taking with them their belongings of furniture, money, and cars.

Second, his excellency says that they will not bow, that their heads will remain high, and that they have the strength to face all difficulties. That is how we want them to be, and we wish them to live always in dignity and prosperity.

His excellency alleges that all the returnees from Saudi Arabia confirmed that their monies were confiscated from them, and that they were treated with violence by Saudi soldiers. Our answer is that teaching Yemeni citizens to make allegations such as those is a well known and easy matter.

The responsible source added: Regarding 'Ali Salim al-Bidh's statement that Yemen will not respond to the nasty media polemics directed against it from abroad, yet will not remain silent in the face of them, our answer is that the campaign he referred to was begun in Sanaa. For a long while we refrained from responding to it, until the limit was exceeded and we began to clarify the facts. Messengers were sent to us asking us to stop responding, and the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, issued an instruction to the Saudi media a few days ago, ordering it to stop. However, 'Ali Salim al-Bidh is determined to continue it. In view of our capabilities, of which Sanaa is aware, we urge His Excellency to stop this assault, for we are still striving to preserve good-neighborliness, and ask God to help and guide everyone.

Yemen

Salih Cables Condolences to Mubarak on Murder

JN1210180890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has sent a cable of condolences in his name and on behalf of the Council members, to His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the death of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, in today's regrettable incident.

Omani Information Minister Delivers Qabus Message

JN1710062790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas. The Omani minister conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id related to several issues concerning bilateral relations and developments in the regional and Arab arenas in light of the current crisis in the Gulf.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Jirghum and Information Ministry Under Secretary [name indistinct].

Makes Statement

JN1710071690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas left Sanaa today following a short visit to our country during which he conveyed a message to Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, from his Brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

In a statement to SABA' [Yemeni Press Agency], the Omani official said the message deals with bilateral relations and promoting joint Arab action within the framework of entrenching Arab solidarity. Brother al-Rawwas noted that the brother president had expressed complete understanding of the sensitivity of the stage the Arab nation is experiencing and his hopes for fruitful cooperation to proceed on the road toward restoring Arab solidarity to its right direction.

He was seen off by Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, Information Ministry Under Secretary Mutahhar Taqi, the protocol representative, and the charge d'affaires of the Omani Embassy in Sanaa.

Delegation Leaves for Tehran With Message

JN1410143190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] A delegation of the Council of Representatives, led headed by Brother Sa'id Muhammad al-Hakimi, the Council's secretary, today left for Tehran on a several-day visit to the fraternal Islamic Republic of Iran.

In statements to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', Brother al-Hakimi said the visit falls within the framework of bolstering and improving relations between the two Muslim countries and peoples. He said the visit aims at improving parliamentary relations and joint interests; benefiting from the experiences and expertise in the two institutions, the Council of Representatives in Yemen and the Majlis in Iran; and coordinating efforts and positions in the international and regional parliamentary forums and meetings.

The Council of Representatives secretary explained that he carries an oral message from Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, to his brother Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Salih-Saddam Plot Kills Tribal Chiefs in Iraq

PM1610083090 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 9 Oct 90 p 1

[Khalid al-Matrafi, Salim Murayshid, Siddiq 'Ali Ahmad, and Muhammad Rabi' report: "Five Senior Yemeni Tribal Chiefs Liquidated"]

[Excerpt] AL-MADINAH has learned from informed Yemeni sources that five senior tribal chiefs were liquidated in Baghdad recently in a vile conspiracy which [Yemeni President] 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih hatched with Saddam Husayn.

The sources pointed out that 'Ali Salih slyly managed to persuade these chiefs, who posed a threat to his regime, to go to Iraq to convince Saddam Husayn of their view demanding the invading Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Yemeni chiefs delegation met with Saddam who told them that he would respond to their request and promised to meet with them later to prepare a joint statement on that matter. Then he requested one of his aides to accompany them to the Guest House.

The sources added that the Yemeni chiefs left Saddam and never returned to him or to their country although four weeks have elapsed since their arrival in Iraq.

The sources emphasized that they were liquidated at a request from Yemen's ruler 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, whose weak position backing Iraq was condemned by them. [passage omitted]

Government Support for Iraq Termed 'Tragedy'

PM1710104790 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Oct 90 pp 18-20

[Interview with Ibrahim Bin-'Ali al-Wazir, "leader of the Yemeni Opposition," by Matar al-Ahmadi; place, date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Ahmadi] What is the truth about the demonstrations staged in some Yemeni cities in support of the Iraqi invasion, as reported by news agencies?

[Al-Wazir] Some eyewitnesses have spoken to me about those demonstrations, which were very minor. They comprised members of the so-called the Socialist Ba'th Party, a weak party in Yemen whose members, as

Yemenis sarcastically describe them, are hired from among the owners of socialist and proletarian palaces that cost millions. It is known that the masters of that party have not had a single significant project in Yemen. But it all has to do with the demagogue with whom that nation is afflicted, not only at the level of ignorant people but also at the level of those who claim to be intellectuals. The demonstrations on the first day did not exceed 50 people, as revealed to me by an eyewitness. But the following day the authorities forcibly mobilized ordinary people on the streets, schoolchildren, and office workers.

[Al-Ahmadi] What are the effects of the Saudi-Yemeni dispute resulting from the Iraqi invasion on the internal situation in Yemen?

[Al-Wazir] Undoubtedly the people will find relief in the impact of that dispute on their conditions, because the government did not value the importance of the unlimited Saudi aid and its role in its stability. I believe that the people, with God's help, are capable of continuing the struggle and jihad of their enlightened vanguard in order to protect their achievements, demonstrated by the unity and relative freedom, and then turn them into a reality reflecting their interests both inside and outside the country. They are also capable of preventing anyone from tampering with their destinies, as they are part of a nation that has a mission and a role at the human level.

[Al-Ahmadi] How do you explain the official Yemeni position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

[Al-Wazir] The official position is a tragedy and a result of the regime's nature. It is a position that is not unusual where there is autocracy and where the nation is forgotten. It is a violation of the simplest rules of ethics, fairness, and justice. Kuwait provided unconditional aid to Yemen, both North and South. And the glorious Koran teaches us to ask: Is there any reward for good other than good? Besides, anyone who does not stand by the oppressed against the oppressor is cursed by God. And the tragedies afflicting the sons of the land prompt firm support for the oppressed.

[Al-Ahmadi] It seems that Yemeni tribes, as reflected in the position on the crisis, do not support the president. Do you think that a clash may occur between the two sides?

[Al-Wazir] The Yemeni tribes openly expressed their position, which was published by the press. They are strong and do not fear a ruler or a tyrant, indeed never in history have they feared one. As to whether a clash could take place, that depends on the position of the forces opposed to any disruption of the balance which has led the relative freedom and pluralism, and they are fully supported by the tribes and their chiefs. [passage omitted]

Correction to Salih Address on 14 Oct Anniversary

JN1410130390

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Salih Statement on 14 October Revolution Anniversary," published in the 16 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 23.

Column two, paragraph five, first sentence, should read ...in the lofty Radfan Mountains against British... (correcting name of mountains).

Culture Ministry Says Kuwait Policy Unchanged

JN1710093490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0843 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—In a statement to INA, an information source at the Ministry of Culture and Information has stated the following:

In some kind of conformity, some news agencies and newspapers have begun to fabricate stories and to claim that statements attributed to this or that Arab or foreign politician, some of whom have met with the Iraqi officials, indicate that there has been a certain change in Iraq's stand. So that these sides will not be dragged further behind their allegations, which are only wishful thoughts, we say clearly that Iraq has not changed its stand toward all the national and pan-Arab issues being discussed, and that what Iraq has said regarding the pan-Arab policy, specifically since the Amman summit in February, in terms of analysis and objectives, is firm and does not change. In fact, events have proved the soundness of this course.

Our stand toward Iraq's national issues, including the governorate of Kuwait, is firm and has not changed since the blessed eternal unity on 8 August after the exalted day of the call. If some news agencies and newspapers want to cover up their retreats and mistakes as a result of their misinterpretation of Iraq's destiny and ability to stand fast, then they should face themselves and their listeners with the facts as they are and pay the price for their mistakes and misinterpretations, instead of indulging in a new level of mistakes and deviations through fabricating fresh mistakes and lies.

In short, no Iraqi official has said or will say that Kuwait is not part of Iraq. This was confirmed by a senior official at the Culture and Information Ministry. Iraq does not have two policies either on this or any other issue, and what is approved of its policy is declared by the highest level of responsibility, and all sides should deal with this declared policy as confirmed facts.

Minister Rejects Bush Remarks on Kuwait

JN1610133490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—Commenting on the speech made by U.S. President Bush yesterday in which he talked about the deficit crisis in the federal budget and the situation in the Gulf, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, has made the following statement to INA:

In a desperate attempt to overcome the deficit crisis in the federal budget, U.S. President Bush said: "It is important that we control the deficit in the budget, not only from the viewpoint of U.S. economy, but also—and as I see the larger picture—in light of the challenge we are facing in the Gulf, for all of us know the serious economic consequences of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait." Bush also claimed that these consequences are serious because what is at stake is more than just the economy or oil. Within the context of an exposed campaign, and in an attempt to secure the Congress' approval to endorse the budget, Bush claimed that the Iraqi forces are committing brutal actions in Kuwait, and that summary executions are being carried out there. He also claimed that a citizen's possession of Jabir's picture is sufficient to subject him to death. This he heard from the Croesus of Kuwait himself.

Bush has tried to elicit the sympathy of his audience in an attempt to get himself out of his predicament. Thus, he claimed that "incubators of newly born infants are being seized so as to be sent to Baghdad, and that medical equipment is taken away from patients also to be sent to Baghdad," and other such fabricated talk which confirms anew Bush's blatant lies and the low level of his morals to secure the Congress' approval to endorse the budget which is nagging him, as he put it.

While ridiculing Bush's speech and rejecting it altogether, we tell Bush that one of the biggest U.S. news agencies is currently present in Kuwait, and in its hospitals, to tell the world about the continued attention being paid by official medical organs under directions from leader President Saddam Husayn.

Our Iraqi people from Zakho to the sea, and from the land to the sea are one, and equal before the law and in the services rendered to them by the state.

What you have heard, O Bush, from the Croesus of Kuwait is the talk of the defeated one who begs for your mercy and sympathy to embroil you and your Army. Today, you are using what the defeated Croesus told you to force the Congress to endorse the budget that suffers from a deficit as a result of your policy, and trying to link this budget to your flagrant intervention in the Gulf for oil and for carrying out aggression in the interest of your partners in oil commissions.

He who holds your post as a president of a great power should accurately weigh his words, and should not be a clown who repeats what others say and uses words that do not befit his position in an attempt to save himself from the impasse and psychological and moral embarrassment in which he has found himself.

We remind you, O Bush, that you are the last one who has a right to speak about Iraq's children and their suffering, for the simple reason that is known by the world; namely, you have deprived them of milk and medicine and imposed a blockade against them, gloating over their torture and suffering and indulging in the happy hope that this inhuman blockade against them will succeed.

Concluding, the culture and information minister said: You should understand, O Bush, that Iraq's leader and its symbol, Saddam Husayn, takes care of children, who have a special place in his heart, but you will not be able to understand the psychological and social significance and dimensions of this.

Finally, you should make use of the accurate information that reaches you through one of the biggest U.S. television networks, which is now present in Kuwait, so as to convey a clear picture to you, and not as was conveyed to you by the defeated Croesus.

Ba'th Official Chairs Kuwait Meeting

JN1510093490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Oct (INA)—'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has asserted that any double efforts which are made to apply the principles of justice and law would be for the good of the citizen who is the objective and means of the great 17-30 July Revolution, and would serve Iraq, which is relentlessly and heroically opposing, under the wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the U.S.-Western aggression.

While chairing a meeting today of the heads of services and executive departments in the governorate of Kuwait, he said that serving citizens without exception or discrimination constitutes an important tributary of goodness and sacrifice, which would consolidate Iraq's victorious development march and benefit all segments of society from Zakho to the sea.

He explained that the Arabs and Iraqis and all honorable, generous men have been overwhelmed with joy over the return of the branch, Kuwait, to the origin, Iraq, after it had suffered under the rule of the defunct al-Sabah regime all kinds of oppression, tyranny, and enslavement.

During the meeting, which was attended by the minister of local government, the under secretary of the governorate of Kuwait, the officers in charge of the districts of Kazimah, al-Nidah', and al-Jahrah', and a number of official governors, the attendees reviewed and assessed the activities of the governorate's departments and the institutions affiliated with the ministries of the state and their achievements during the period following Kuwait's return to the lap of the mother homeland.

Ministry Official Meets Visiting American Delegation

JN1610214190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun met here today with the American-Iraqi Society for dialogue between the two peoples. During the meeting, they reviewed current events in the Arabian Gulf and the dangerous results of the American and foreign presence on the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arabia Gulf.

Nizar Hamdun explained to the delegation the implications of the peace initiative declared by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August—an initiative that could bring about a comprehensive and just peace and solve all the region's problems. He also explained Iraq's fair position on these events and its legitimate right to defend its land and national independence.

The American-Iraqi society for dialogue between the two peoples arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit to Iraq lasting several days. In a statement to INA, Salim Mansur, chairman of the American-Iraqi Society and head of the delegation, said that the delegation would hold meetings with officials to discuss developments in the region and ways to solve problems peacefully. He added that the visit will give the delegation a good opportunity to see the progress Iraq has achieved in all areas.

It is noteworthy that the society held its first constituent meeting in the United States early in July to explore ways and means for direct, friendly contacts between the American and Iraqi peoples.

Finnish Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 13 Oct

Comments to INA

JN1410133090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] A Finnish peace delegation led by Mrs. Saara-Maria Paakkinen, member of the Finnish parliament, who also heads the Finnish-Arab Friendship Society, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Mrs. Paakinen told INA the delegation comprises a number of Finnish parliamentarians who came to Iraq to express a wish to see peace and security prevail in the Arabian Gulf and all Arab problems worked out peacefully.

Meets Amity Group Leader

JN1410134790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] 'Adnan Dawud Salman, head of the Friendship, Solidarity, and Peace Organization in Iraq, today met with the Finnish peace messengers delegation, headed by Mrs. Saara-Maria Paakkinen, Finnish Parliament member and head of the Finnish-Arab Friendship Society.

During the meeting, the head of the organization stressed that the imperialist-Zionist scheme against Iraq aims at stopping the nation's civilization awakening and preventing it from playing its role in the world community. He pointed out that those plots will fail by the action, determination and willpower of the Iraqis and all good people in the world.

The head of the delegation said that by coming to Iraq, the delegation members seek to contribute toward sparing the region a destructive war and to bolster security and stability in it.

Meets Assembly Speaker

JN1510091790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, conferred here today with the Finnish parliamentary delegation led by MP Mrs. Saara-Maria Paakkinen, deputy chairman of the ruling Finnish Social Democratic Party [title as received]. Salih emphasized that the people and leaders of Iraq want global peace and security so as to step up cooperation among peoples and meet their national interests.

The unfair resolutions passed by the UN Security Council under pressure and prompting by the United States, Salih said, constitute a serious precedent in the concept of international dealings inasmuch as they seek the deprivation and starvation of an entire people, and denial of medicines and vital things like milk to the children. He noted that the world body has never before passed comparable resolutions—not even against the most obdurent racist regimes that continue to pose a threat to world security and peace.

Bound by close ties with peace-loving nations, Iraq now finds itself on the receiving end of an American-Western military threat that has compounded the regional problems and become a barrier to peace solutions that will remain elusive unless the invading armies and navies pull out from the sacred Arab land and the United States ceases brandishing war against the people of Iraq, said Salih.

Paakkinen said she recognizes Iraq's initiatives to establish peace and work out all the regional problems so as to keep the specter of war at bay and reinstitute the rights of the Palestinians who have had more than their share of pain and injustice.

She stressed that the Finnish parliament is sympathetic toward the Iraqi people and their right to live in peace and dignity and free from any threat from whatever source. Paakkinen said Finnish political and international humanitarian organizations are actively engaged in efforts toward a relaxation of tension in the region and a withdrawal of foreign forces to let its peoples sort out their own problems free from outside interference.

Parliamentary Union Invited To Convene in Baghdad

JN1410164890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The National Assembly has urged the members of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] to hold a meeting in Baghdad next Thursday.

A responsible National Assembly source informed the INA that the meeting would be devoted to taking a unified Arab parliamentary position on the brutal crime committed by the Zionist cliques against the Palestinian people in the Jerusalem holy mosque on 8 October.

The Assembly also said that it has sent letters of invitation to the APU General Secretariat and all the Arab parliaments to attend the meeting.

Industry Minister Talks With Burkinabe Envoy

JN1510062190 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 14, INA—Mr. Husayn Kamal Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization met here last night Mr. Boukari Mahmud Jubra'il, [name as received] advisor of Burkina Faso's president currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, Mr. Hasan reviewed Iraq's rights in Kuwait that had been torn from Iraq during the British colonization in the region. Mr. Jubra'il expressed appreciation of the Iraqi scientific development which disproved all lies that had been launched by the Western propaganda against it.

Envoy Makes Statement, Departs

JN1410202190 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Boukari Mahmud Jubra'il, adviser and personal envoy of Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore to His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, departed Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA, the personal envoy said that during his visit to Iraq, he conveyed a written letter to President Saddam Husayn from Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore dealing with bilateral relations and developments in the Arabian Gulf.

The Burkinabe envoy added that his visit to Iraq was historic because it revealed to him all lies spread by the Western media against Iraq in an attempt to obliterate facts. He was seen off at the airport by the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Swedish 'Peace Messengers' Arrive 13 Oct

Outline Agenda

JN1410135290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—The Swedish delegation of peace messengers arrived in Baghdad this evening to stay as the guests of the Iraqi people and leadership at Iraq's vital installations.

In a statement to INA, George Martin, head of the delegation and chairman of the Society for Peace and Promoting Human Rights in Sweden, said that the aim of their visit to Iraq is to prevent the outbreak of war and establish comprehensive peace in the region. He stressed the need to resolve all regional issues peacefully away from military interventions which only bring destruction.

The delegation was received at the airport by several officials in the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization.

Meet Amity Group Leader

JN1510085690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1826 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Mr. 'Adnan Dawud Salman, head of Iraq's Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, met today with the Swedish volunteers delegation headed by George Martin.

Mr. Salman stressed during the meeting that the imperialist and Zionist schemes are aimed at obstructing the Arab nation's role in human interaction and halting Iraq's development under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. But these schemes, he said, will only reap disappointment for the enemies of the Arab nation.

Mr. George Martin stressed the need for solving all problems of the region peacefully and away from the use of military force.

Mr. 'Adnan Dawud Salman also received the Spanish messengers of peace delegation headed by Mrs. Cristina Almeida, member of the Spanish parliament, and the guests of Iraq whom President Saddam Husayn has allowed to leave. Mr. Salman said President Saddam Husayn's initiative of granting the Spanish guests the freedom to stay in Iraq or leave is one in the series of the president's peaceful initiatives that reflect genuine desire for achieving peace and ending all problems in the region.

Mrs. Almeida expressed high appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's initiative and stressed that the messengers of peace will endeavor to lay the foundations of the peace that serves the peoples of the region and spares them the scourge of war.

UK, U.S. Vessels Search Tanker South of Oman

LD1310151290 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1257 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Two Royal Navy frigates joined U.S. warships in stopping and searching an Iraqi tanker today. The tanker Almutanabbi was sailing outside territorial waters to the south of Oman when the frigates Battleaxe and Jupiter took part in the interception.

A Lynx helicopter from HMS Jupiter provided overhead cover while a U.S. boarding party searched the vessel. No illegal cargo was found and the tanker was allowed to continue its journey.

Government Forbids Trade in Kuwaiti Dinar

JN1410153690 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic 11 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] A responsible source in Kuwait Governorate has stated the following to AL-NIDA':

In implementation of the [Iraqi] Revolution Command Council decision No. 385 of 26 September 1990, it is totally forbidden to deal with the canceled Kuwaiti dinar. Anyone dealing with it will face the severest punishments.

Hammadi Chairs Agricultural Meeting in Al-Basrah

JN1410145490 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Brave al-Basrah Governorate—Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy prime minister, has declared that great Iraq is right now witnessing a unique drive to bring about a successful winter cultivation campaign under the slogan "Agriculture is Good and a Weapon in the Hands of the Leader To Foil the Economic Siege and Confront Imperialist and Zionist Plans."

The RCC member said that discussing the details of the agricultural process, preparing and applying plans, and scrutinizing and dealing with problems will produce the required results. He noted that the Iraqi individual's creative energies have no limit in extraordinary fields.

During a meeting in the brave Governorate of al-Basrah of the chiefs and members of the central and branch committees of the agricultural campaign in the southern governorates, Hammadi said that each committee in this campaign should pay field visits to farmers to explain the dimensions of the campaign and determine the land the farmers will cultivate in light of the investments prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. These visits should be carried out over the next two weeks.

During the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, the under secretaries of the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, the governors and branch secretaries of the al-Basrah, Maysan, Wasit, and Dhi Qar Governorates the discussion centered on the committees' work, the areas of land prepared for cultivation, the timetable for marketing fertilizers and ways to supply them to farmers, and the use and maintenance of agricultural machinery.

The conferees also studied ways to provide electricity for agricultural lands, which depend on electrical pumps for irrigation and on machines for plowing. They also talked about the use of the rivers between the governorates and the distribution of agricultural lands to farmers and investors before 18 October.

Papers Affirm Victory Against Aggression

JN1510101490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0848 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Iraqi papers have warned the U.S. Administration and its allies that embarking on a military aggression will bring them grave disasters and total destruction.

In their editorials today, the papers reiterated Iraq's firm position to defend its territory, integrity, future, and the future of the Arab nation and said Iraq firmly believes that it will triumph in the most important battle [umm al-ma'arik] and that the Zionist and American occupiers will leave after suffering defeat and losing the war.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Our great people, who are united with their brave leadership, heroic Armed Forces, and all the Arab masses are now at the highest levels of alertness and readiness to face the worst possibilities and to offer the greatest sacrifices.

The paper adds: If they begin the war, we will make it a catastrophe for those who spark it. Destruction will be total, especially for Israel, which is within the range of the al-Hijarah missile, and all the dens of conspiracy and aggression in the region. We will turn the land into a volcano under the feet of the invaders and aggressors.

AL-THAWRAH affirms: Bush and his petty allies and agents who are planning and preparing for aggression against Iraq must understand very well that they will not only face the Iraqi people and their experienced, powerful Armed Forces, but also all the Arab masses and their revolutionary leaderships.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says: Iraq's position is governed by several basic principles, whether the Gulf crisis is placed on the negotiations table, or the United States and its allies chose war.

The paper affirms: The first of these basic principles is Iraq's adherence to its legitimate rights and sovereignty over its land from Zakho to the sea and Kuwait's return to its motherland as an eternal irreversible decision, as well as its insistence on the necessity for the departure of all foreign invasion forces from the Arabian Peninsula and the region in order to free the Muslims' holy lands and make the Gulf region a zone of peace and security.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms: Any solution to the crisis must be based on President Sadam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which has begun to have an effect on international political stands despite the U.S. Administration's assault and blackout on it.

The paper says that there is no going back for the world to the pre-2 August situation.

AL-QADISIYAH holds U.S. arrogance responsible for any military adventure, saying: If this takes place, we will respond with all the weapons of mass destruction in the most important battle for which we have prepared the victory brigades, which will deal the United States the worst defeat in its long criminal record.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The results of any military confrontation in the most important battle will bring the world economy to a standstill, deal a major defeat to the United States and its allies, and bring about the end of the corrupt regimes in the region.

The paper adds: The surprises which Iraq has prepared are greater than all types of weapons which they say are in its possession. The alliance of aggression will fall in the abyss.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Iraq will destroy the aggression on two levels: First, it will mutilate whoever collides with its wall. Second, it will settle its historical accounts with all the evil forces participating in, preparing for, colluding in, and instigating the aggression.

Opposition Members View Post-Saddam Prospects

London Exiles Comment

PM1610102090 Paris LE MONDE in French 14-15 Oct 90 p 4

[Jean Gueyras dispatch: "Iraqi Opposition Strives To Surmount Splits"]

[Text] London—Iraqi oppositionists in London are starting to breathe again. For many years they lived in fear of the Iraqi intelligence services, which were especially active in the British capital until the invasion of Kuwait. Some oppositionists even say that there was almost a kind of tacit collaboration between the Iraqi and British services.

"The British have never handed over Iraqi oppositionists to the Baghdad authorities, as happened in France, but it has supplied them with information about our activities," one of them said, adding that several of his friends were informed by London's services of the "dirty tricks" which the Iraqi services were secretly planning against them.

Despite the expulsion in mid-September of both the Baghdad Embassy's military attaches and some 20 Iraqi "students" of vague status, the opposition leaders have not yet managed to free themselves entirely from the fear that haunts them. When Colonel Salim Fakhri, one of the most active members of the opposition, suffered a heart attack at the beginning of September his death was immediately blamed on the Iraqis, despite the autopsy results.

Colonel Fakhri was a member of the democratic Movement for the Liberation of Iraq, a nationalist organization based in London—which for almost 10 years has been the main rallying point for the opposition in Europe—and whose aim is to establish a pluralist democracy in Iraq. "We are in favor of a democratic constitution and a state based on law," said Hani al-Fuqayqi, a businessman who leads the movement.

However paradoxical it may appear, Hani al-Fuqayqi—a former member of the Ba'th Party leadership, from which he resigned in 1964—like many colleagues living in exile in London, opposes a military intervention against Iraq. "We are in favor of the elimination of Saddam Husayn's dictatorship," he said, "but not at the cost of the destruction of Iraq and its economic and military capability by the United States and Britain. We have been combating Saddam Husayn for the past 20 years, while these very powers have been strengthening him economically and militarily. Without this aid, the Iraqi people could have replaced the Baghdad regime long ago."

Fear of Islamic Movement

Al-Fuqayqi said that there are many opponents of Saddam Husayn and the Ba'th Party in the party and the Army. He added: "I believe that they will be very helpful in creating a state based on law and democracy. In the immediate term, however, I am not optimistic, because within the opposition there is not even a minimum agreement on a political program, and each component has different views about the country's future."

Dr. Francis, a Christian who says he belongs to the liberal and democratic tendency of the opposition that recently founded the Iraqi Democratic Forum, shares al-Fuqayqi's pessimism. "Only opposition unity," he stressed, "can put the pressure on the Iraqi military that will make them act against Saddam Husayn."

His colleagues, Huwayzi and Majid, seem even more pessimistic. "If Saddam Husayn goes," they said, "he will be replaced by the Islamic current. We face a situation similar to that which existed in Tehran at the start of the Iranian revolution." "Only a liberal and democratic solution can save Iraq," they said, though admitting that the solution that they envisage will not happen tomorrow, "since 10 years of dictatorship have eliminated all trace of liberalism and democracy." However," they added, "there is no option other than that which we propose if we want to prevent Iraq from falling pray to all kinds of internal wars once Saddam Husayn has gone."

Dr. 'Abbas, who represents the Iraqi Communist Party, does not share the fears of his "liberal friends" with regard to an Islamic tidal wave. "Iraq," he said, "is not Iran, and the nonconfessional current there is stronger than in Tehran. We have suffered too much under a single-party regime to be able to allow ourselves the luxury of embarking on such a risky undertaking. So we believe that a political platform shared by all Iraqi groups—liberal, communist, Islamic, and Kurdish—is possible."

Weakened by harsh repression, the Communist Party admits that its presence in Iraq is merely symbolic. "Our action," Dr. 'Abbas said, "is very limited, except in Kurdistan, where we have a military wing that is active within the Iraqi Kurdistan front which embraces most of the peshmerga organizations." But there are also problems stemming from the ties that some of these movements maintain with foreign forces, which does not facilitate the talks currently under way in Damascus with a view to establishing a joint platform for the entire Iraqi opposition.

Abu-'Ali, the al-Da'wah Islamic party's London representative, tried to be reassuring: "Nobody apart from us," he said, "wants an Islamic state. But the Iraqi people are not ready to be governed by the Islamic movement. If we impose a government of this kind it will inevitably become a dictatorship which will, by the nature of things, give rise to another Saddam Husayn. The only reasonable option will therefore be a constitutional parliamentary system which, after free elections by universal suffrage, will establish a government answerable only to the people. We will respect he people's choice, even if their choice is non-Islamic."

Shadow of Tehran

"We are totally independent of Iran, whose leaders accuse us of the sin of nationalism" Abu-'Ali said. He even admits having had some quarrels with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati who, he said, refused, before the invasion of Kuwait, to include the issue of the 300,000 Iraqi Shiites deported to Iran just before the Gulf war on the agenda for his talks with Baghdad's leaders. Abu-'Ali believes, however, that Hojjat-ol-Eslam Muhammad Bakr al-Hakim's "movement of Iraqi mudjahedin" created by the Iranians in July 1982 is totally subservient to Tehran and therefore has little chance of gaining victory for its pro-Iranian ideas.

Most of the people with whom we spoke are convinced that Saddam Husayn will accept all the concessions currently being demanded from him, including a total and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the reduction of his military forces, "since he will feel that his regime is in jeopardy." "If that happens," one intellectual close to the Islamic movement said, "there will be a great temptation in the West and elsewhere to give him another chance. After all, Saddam Husayn is their creature and has done them some very great services by maintaining a rigid order in the country, by neutralizing the Khomeyni-ist tide, and by containing Kurdish nationalism, whose explosive potential for the entire region is particularly great.

Kurdish Leader on Unity Efforts

PM1610132590 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 10 Oct 90 p 6

["Part I" of interview with Jalal al-Talabani, secretary general of the (Iraqi) Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Mansur Ibrahim al-Husayn; place, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayn] To begin with we would like to be acquainted with the course of the Kurdish opposition in Iraq and the results which it has achieved over the past period.

[Al-Talabani] The Kurdish opposition has achieved major cooperation in the military, political, and information fields during the Gulf crisis. It started with the formation of the Iraqi Kurdish Front, which was determined to continue armed, political, diplomatic, informational, and organizational struggle after the end of the Iraq-Iran war.

The opposition warned the Iraqi Government that it would start Kurdish resistance by intensifying its activities and by concentrating on actions against the

Baghdad dictator's ambitions and aims. The early Kurdish resistance started before the Iraq-Iran war as a result of the Baghdad dictator's repeated attacks against the Muslim Kurdish people. Their resistance has continued since, because the reasons and justifications for its continuation still stand. The movement is currently going through a phase of revival, because the resistance stayed isolated and alone in the field for some time, as the Iraqi dictatorship continued to deceive and mislead many Arab governments, and indeed many Arab forces, parties, intellectuals, and peoples. [passage omitted]

By virtue of its good relations with all parties and its alliances and friendship with most Iraqi opposition parties, the Kurdish resistance has managed to secure a common denominator and a unifying factor to unite these parties under the Iraqi opposition front which was sought and which, God willing, will be launched soon to unite and mobilize the Iraqi people's energies with a view to toppling the existing dictatorship in Iraq and establishing a constitutional, democratic system through which the Iraqi people can determine their future economic, political, and social systems.

[Al-Husayn] You said that the Kurdish opposition has united under one front. What has it achieved?

[Al-Talabani] First, uniting Kurdish party and organization forces.

Second, ensuring the continuation of armed struggle under the difficult and expected conditions.

Third, carrying out joint informational activities inside the country in addition to informational, political, and diplomatic activities abroad, namely in Europe, the United States, some Arab countries, and the Soviet Union. It has also made contacts with the Kurdish forces throughout Kurdistan to provide them with the facts about Iraq.

The most important achievement is in organizing and mobilizing the Kurdish popular masses in the areas controlled by the Iraqi Government, on the grounds that they are the source of the Kurdish resistance movement.

[Al-Husayn] How are you dealing with the deteriorating conditions inside Iraq as a result of the economic and air blockade?

[Al-Talabani] Conditions in Kurdistan are much worse than anywhere else in Iraq. This is for two reasons: First, the Kurdish people were exposed to a war of annihilation in every sense of the word, not only through the use of chemical weapons in Halabjah, which is now internationally known, but even two years before Halabjah the dictatorial Iraqi Government used chemical weapons against many areas For example, in 1987, over a year before Halabjah, the Iraqi Government used chemical weapons against Wadi Badisan. In one village called Shaykh Wasnan they killed 122 Kurds in one day, among them 72 children aged between one day and seven years. That savage war resulted in murder in and emigration from the Kurdish region, and Iraqi Kurdistan was depopulated. In fact that war ruined the soil, which is no longer suitable for agriculture and grazing, and consequently is not suitable for housing or any other aspect of life.

[Al-Husayn] What is your view of the Iraqi dictatorship's rejection of the foreign forces' presence in the Gulf?

[Al-Talabani] The dictatorial government claims that it is against the military presence in the Gulf states. But the problem and the question which has to be asked is: Who caused the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia] and the other Gulf states to seek help from the world's states, which responded by sending their military units, aircraft carriers, and other weapons? Who made Kuwait originally ask for permission to raise the U.S. flag over its ships? Was not the Baghdad tyrant the cause?

Iraq's rejection of the foreign forces' presence in the Gulf is one of the Iraqi dictatorship's contradictions. In the past it welcomed U.S. fleets when they supported it against Iran. The Iraqi Government and its media described those fleets as being from civilized and cultured states, thus an understanding could be reached with them. But now it says that things are different, and the false Iraqi criteria have been overturned.

The thing which I would like to emphasize is that the regime in Iraq is not an Iraqi phenomenon; it is alien to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Levi Interviewed on East Jerusalem Policy

TA1610160290 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by network news anchor Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening.

[Levi] Good evening.

[Shilon] Why ignore the facts or play dumb? Why be vicious? After all, you signed an agreement that now links East Jerusalem to some kind of Israeli commitment related to the Palestinian problem. So why, when the United States—justifiably so, from its point of view—again linked Jerusalem to the heart of the problem at the United Nations, did this raise our hackles?

[Levi] Let me counter with a question to you: Where do you get this information? As you can see, you have also been caught in this web, believing things that never existed—not even as a myth—but which everyone seems to accept; namely, the thesis that my document mentions Jerusalem. That is not so.

[Shilon] To be specific, with your permission, did you undertake that the $400 million Israel will receive will not be used for settlement in East Jerusalem?

[Levi] First of all, Jerusalem is not at all mentioned in that document. Second, if anyone thinks the funds for which we will receive U.S. guarantees will be used for settlement, then I would say he is dreaming. Perhaps when that person receives the money, he can also obtain U.S. acceptance of a policy to which it objects. We have a disagreement with the United States, which does not support and does not agree with the settlement policy. As for its underwriting the $400 million, it insists that this money be spent for immigrant absorption inside the Green Line.

I would like to say here in no uncertain terms that when we get the civilian aid we have been receiving annually for years, the Israeli Government signs a commitment assuring that this money will be spent inside the Green Line, and yet no one accuses the government of not doing things in the area of immigrant absorption. The state has a budget, from which it is necessary to find means to carry out government resolutions regarding settlement everywhere. I made no commitment on limiting the Israeli Government's ability to settle, or its right to decide to settle people in Judaea, Samaria, or anywhere.

[Shilon] When you talk about this undertaking regarding the Green Line boundaries for the $400 million, does it include East Jerusalem as well? In other words, in your opinion, can that money be used to build homes and provide housing for Jews in East Jerusalem?

[Levi] Insofar as that money is concerned, it will be spent along the same parameters as the annual $1.2 billion civilian aid; namely, inside the territory that Israel ruled as of 5 June 1967.

[Shilon] Including Jerusalem, or not?

[Levi] We are not drawing maps here! Decisions must be made, and the cabinet will set up neighborhoods and build apartments everywhere and in Jerusalem. I myself did something in Jerusalem, and there is also the state budget. Would the cabinet wish to avoid building in Jerusalem because the U.S. aid restricts it only to the former Green Line? It must do its duty, and it also has its own budget. If anyone believed that, however, we would both receive money and alter the U.S. policy, he was overly optimistic.

[Shilon] Mr. Levi, everyone—including Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in his radio interview this morning—agrees that Israeli-U.S. relations are going downhill, are at a nadir, are problematic. Only a month ago, I recall, you said that we have embarked on a new path: no more surprises, but coordination of positions with the United States. What is the source of this apparent contradiction?

[Levi] There is coordination with the United States; relations have again returned to the good course of cooperation and frank deliberations. Furthermore, the United States has been supplying Israel with both its military and economic needs and will continue to assist it. What happened on the Temple Mount created a certain difficulty [metzuqa]. Those who choose to ignore it are welcome to do so, but this situation evolved from the interests of the United States' partners in the anti-Saddam coalition, in which Israel has become the pawn. After all, a resolution was passed without probing the facts properly, without knowing the truth. The attack on defenseless Jews who were praying at a holy place was ignored, and the resolution termed Jerusalem occupied territory. In addition to all that, if Israel had accepted the delegation that was supposed to arrive here to come up with recommendations and conclusions, that would have implied acceptance of the basis on which it was to be dispatched. In other words, we would have agreed that Jerusalem is occupied territory. Israel would then have had to take issue with the recommendations of that committee, that a UN contingent should come to Jerusalem to protect the Palestinians.

[Shilon] But you mentioned difficulties in Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Levi] Yes.

[Shilon] You also talked about the commission whose arrival Israel rejected. But today the British foreign secretary suggested that Israel reject all the components of the Security Council resolution, but talk to the delegation and explain its position. Otherwise—he may not have said this in so many words, but this is clearly implied—Israel may face sanctions, or perhaps even worse things.

[Levi] What about countries that contravened the UN charter, that bombed capitals and carried out horrendous operations that left hundreds of people dead; countries that crushed sovereign regimes. That did not prod the Security Council to convene or do anything at all—either in Lebanon, where the Syrians carried out bombardments; or in Mecca, where hundreds of people were killed. But I will ignore all these examples.

They looked for someone to pay the price and thought Israel could serve that purpose. But Israel will not be the pawn. It is sovereign and makes its own resolutions. It will not accept this capitulation or deny Jerusalem its status as its capital, its eternal capital.

There was an act that should have shocked anyone in his right mind, any civilized person or believer, when Jews were attacked with rocks by thousands of rioters who meant to kill them. This was the outcome of the wise hand policy, which was intended to exercise greater laxity with respect to the Arabs and left only a small contingent at the site, and look at the outcome! There is no wise hand policy against an incited mob that razes everything, because they exercise a wild hand and murderous policy.

We regret the loss of life, Jewish or Arab equally. But does anyone think that we should not have protected ourselves? I would like to say that the proposal raised by my British colleague—and incidentally our talks with him were, contrary to all predictions, excellent, and we agreed on cooperation in many areas—was: I understand you; some political components in this affair hurt you, but this has nothing to do with that incident. Therefore, I suggest that you reject all the auxiliary elements. This is great, but is the UN secretary general or the Security Council prepared to strike out all these components?

It is not a tradition in Israel to refuse to see UN delegates or envoys representing the UN secretary general. Only two months ago we received such a delegation. There is no tradition of opposing such delegations just for the sake of refusing them. However, the basis on which that delegation was supposed to have come—that of unilateral charges, of terming Jerusalem occupied territory, of demanding that Israel accept this, plus the recommendations that UN troops will come to Jerusalem to protect the Palestinians—what Israeli Government would have accepted that?

As for my friend Mr. Hurd's suggestion, I replied that if the United Nations agrees to erase all those components, it is welcome.

[Shilon] Foreign Minister David Levi, thank you for being so kind and for coming to our studio.

[Levi] Thank you.

Levi Reportedly Commits to Baker Restrictions

TA1610202690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Secretary of State James Baker is urging Israel not to put up new buildings in East Jerusalem. Speaking at a news conference in Washington, Baker said that he had received a commitment from Foreign Minister Levi saying U.S. funds will not be used beyond the Green Line. [passage omitted]

The prime minister's office is now waiting to receive the full text of U.S. Secretary of State Baker's remarks. Our political correspondent Arye Golan has been told that the prime minister's office will issue no reaction until Jerusalem reviews everything Baker said.

Hurd Criticized in Meetings With Officials

Discussions With Levi

TA1610121890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Douglas Hurd, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, concluded his meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi and hurried off to an additional working meeting with the prime minister. The main topic of their discussions—Israel's decision not to accept the UN investigatory delegation. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports from the Foreign Ministry:

[Golan] Good afternoon. The discussion at the Foreign Ministry began with the Persian Gulf issue. Foreign Minister Levi told Hurd that as far as other countries are concerned the crisis in the Gulf and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait pose a danger to various interests. For Israel, however, it is a matter of existence. Douglas Hurd replied that the problem and the dangers will be shared by everyone if Saddam Husayn remains in power.

Levi: God forbid that the Vietnam syndrome returns to haunt the United States. We are not pushing anyone to take military action; however, it must be clear, our foreign minister asserted, that Israel will know how to defend itself. Afterwards the two men went on to discuss the UN Security Council's resolution and Israel's refusal to accept the UN delegation. Hurd offered a practical proposal: That Israel find some way to reject the content of the resolution itself, but accept the operative portion, or in other words receive the delegation that would be sent on behalf of the UN secretary general, according to the Security Council's decision. Levi declared that Israel has no tradition of rejecting UN delegations, recalling that he had but recently hosted Jean Claude Aimee, the same man currently designated to head the scheduled delegation to Israel. Israel, noted Foreign Minister Levi, has always cooperated with the United Nations on varied and diverse subjects. We are not nay-sayers. However, the Israeli foreign minister pointed out, the Security Council resolution was offensive to the entire Israeli people. Both of us, he told Hurd, are well aware of how Britain would have reacted if what had happened at the Western Wall to the worshippers—who were forced to flee for their lives under a hail of heavy rocks and boulders—had occurred in London.

Upon leaving the meeting, while Hurd was hurrying off to his meeting with the prime minister, Foreign Minister Levi said that their meeting was good and the atmosphere was excellent. The British secretary of state confirmed Levi's remarks.

[Begin Hurd recording in English] But I just confirm my agreement with what the minister said, both in our talk last night in the car, in our private talk this morning, and in our talk with our collaborators later this morning, the atmosphere has been very good. There is substantial agreement on the objectives; the priority is the removal of Saddam Husayn from Kuwait. [end recording]

[Golan translates above and continues] The British secretary of state added that there were also disagreements. Secretary of State Hurd refused to respond to correspondents' questions regarding the UN delegation, but we have already heard his proposal. Right now, the British secretary of state and Prime Minister Shamir are probably also discussing the issue of the UN delegation.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 16 October adds that "Levi said that he and Foreign Secretary Hurd had agreed to hold frequent consultations on Israel's aspiration for peace with its neighbors. Levi said he and Hurd reached full understanding on the dangers which Israel faces." Later on, the report adds that "speaking to reporters afterwards, Hurd refused to comment on the Temple Mount riots or on Israel's accusations that his statements had been one-sided."]

Proposes Compromise to Shamir

TA1610124490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The meeting is over. Prime Minister Shamir and Douglas Hurd, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, agreed on some points: The Persian Gulf crisis and the need to effect Saddam Husayn's withdrawal from Kuwait for example. Iraq must relinquish its occupation of that country. The two men also agreed that there cannot be any linkage between the handling of the Gulf issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The two men agree that Saddam Husayn constitutes a danger to all countries in the region. Douglas Hurd stressed that the Iraqi leader would have to withdraw from Kuwait either as a result of diplomatic pressure or through military means. Prime Minister Shamir promised Hurd that Israel has no aggressive intentions regarding any country whatsoever, and certainly not against Jordan, whose stability is important to us. Mr. Shamir added that after the Gulf issue is resolved we will have to search for ways to further the peace process between Israel and the Arab countries, as well as between Israel and the Palestinians.

As for the UN delegation, Mr. Shamir explained to the British secretary the reasons behind Israel's unwillingess to accept a delegation on behalf of the United Nations. The Security Council resolution, said Shamir, which constitutes the basis for the dispatch of that delegation, or at least for the desire to send it, is not balanced; it does not mention the Jewish holy sites and it impinges on the sovereign status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Mr. Shamir added that the United Nations has no reason to investigate anything here: Israel itself has set up a commission of inquiry whose results will be published shortly, and anyone wishing to know what transpired last Monday [8 October] on the Temple Mount will receive all the answers.

Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, told us after the meeting that the atmosphere was very friendly. The two men did not criticize each other or the respective policies of each other's countries, and there was evidence of a sincere desire to establish the framework for a constructive dialogue between the two countries. The disagreements, of course, remain, especially on the issue of that self-same UN delegation that the secretary general is scheduled to send to Israel.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 16 October adds that "the prime minister expressed opposition to the proposal made by the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs that Israel reject the UN Security Council's resolution regarding the incidents on the Temple Mount, and only agree to somehow cooperate with a UN delegation. He told the British secretary of state that the cabinet's opposition to receiving the delegation is a matter of principle, because the UN resolution involved Jerusalem, which is the capital of Israel."]

Addresses Knesset Committee

TA1610161990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Addressing members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Douglas Hurd declared today: Britain acknowledges Israel's right to security as Israel understands the matter. This is Dov Gilhar reporting from the Knesset.

Speaking in a closed meeting, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs said that it is the Western world's supreme task to restore the former situation in Kuwait. Hurd believes that the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Arab conflict should not be linked.

The Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman accused Britain of connecting the PLO to a life-support system. Hurd replied to Eliyahu Ben-Elisar: Don't think we are enthusiastic about the PLO. You Israelis should be interested in finding Arab Palestinian partners.

Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Landau told Hurd that the potential danger from Arab countries stems from the short distances in the region. The UK secretary of state replied: If we accept this theory, Britain, which does not trust France, should take over Normandy. At this point, MK Yitzhaq Rabin intervened, saying that were Israel situated on an island, were it surrounded by water, all its problems would be solved.

Responds to Levi Criticism

TA1710055090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi again blasted the UN Security Council last night. At a state dinner for Douglas Hurd, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Levi said that the resolution is unbalanced and no country in the world would have accepted such a resolution with equanimity. [In a similar report on Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 17 October, Levi is reported to have described the resolution as "unjustified and one-sided."]

[Begin Levi recording] We have every right to dispute it. We will not accept this as a fait accompli; we will not give up. Should we accept a delegation on this basis, should an Israeli Government accept this, thereby legitimizing these arguments? [end recording]

In his response, Douglas Hurd said that Israel must understand the Security Council resolution. It is necessary to understand that in an incident in which many individuals are killed, the world shows deep emotions, and there is furthermore dissatisfaction with the state of relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Begin Hurd recording, in English] Whatever may be our desire to keep together an international coalition, please accept that what happens when considerable numbers of people are killed, the kind of things that happened, arouse deep genuine emotion across the world. There is controversy about origins, about how it happened, about responsibilities. That is inevitable when these tragedies occur. But the feeling is there, is strong, and is genuine, and the feeling of unhappiness at the present state of the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians living together in this narrow stretch of land. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 17 October adds that "earlier in a meeting with the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Hurd said Britain absolutely opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state west of Jordan. He also said Israel had to determine its borders on the basis of its own security concerns, without taking into consideration what the Arabs or Americans want."]

Opposes Palestinian State

TA1610175090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was today the guest of the Knesset, and he conferred with the Knesset speaker, several members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in his meeting with the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee members, Secretary Hurd said that Britain is not enthusiastic about the PLO, but that Israel must be interested in finding Palestinian partners for the talks. He also announced that his country strongly opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Palestinians Insulted

TA1710115890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Report from the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem by Arye Gus]

[Text] What exactly did the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs say, and was he accurately quoted? Well, actually, this does not matter much now. The Palestinian notables, 28 in all, decided to boycott the meeting with him over the remarks attributed to him. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the head of the Arab Journalists Association in East Jerusalem, who is the leader of this group, explained:

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording in English] But due to the statements given by Mr. Hurd in his meeting with Israeli officials, based on negation of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and negation of the right of Palestinian people to an independent Palestinian state, which are the two points, are the main and the backbone of the Palestinian strategy known everywhere. We felt that we are insulted as Palestinians by these statements. We did not get any denial, official denial, by the British Government or by Mr. Hurd himself, and we had no choice except to boycott this meeting. [end recording]

[Gus translates and continues] Even the British consul in East Jerusalem, Ivor Callan, who tried very patiently to talk the Palestinian figures into holding the meeting and explained the British stand, was unpersuasive.

[Begin Callan recording in English] We are for Palestinian rights and Palestinian self-determination. Whether that leads to a Palestinian state really depends on the Palestinians and on negotiations. [end recording]

[Gus translates and continues] Until as late as this morning the Palestinians had planned to meet with Douglas Hurd, but as no denial or clarification was forthcoming, they decided to cancel the meeting, explaining that it stemmed from very heavy pressure by the Arab public.

At the news conference which ended a few minutes ago, they lashed out very strongly against the British foreign secretary, charging him with hypocrisy and double standards. Nonetheless, they added, they will not cut off ties with the British Consulate in East Jerusalem.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash said: We even offered Douglas Hurd a solution; that he come here to explain his remarks, but we got no response.

As for Douglas Hurd, the students at Bethlehem University canceled a meeting with him. They also published a pamphlet against him. Instead, he visited a physiotherapy institute in Bayt Jala, where, in response to a question by one of the students, he tried to clarify his position:

[Begin Hurd recording in English] Well, there is a resolution, of course. I mean, there is a resolution which says that what has to happen is to reconcile the security of Israel with the Palestinian rights, and that is the value of the Security Council resolution, and it's a good one; and we must try to make it work, which is what we're trying to do. But you have to reconcile two things: the security of Israel and your rights as Palestinians, and that has not proved easy for all kinds of reasons, which you know. [end recording]

[Gus translates and continues] In the end, there was no meeting, so that all the Palestinians could do was to give the British foreign secretary a three-page memorandum, detailing, among other things, their complaint regarding Hurd's remark on the PLO's status, their demand for an independent state, and their refusal to separate the Persian Gulf crisis from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Activists Burn British Flag

TA1610170490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Two Kakh activists burned the Union Jack near the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum points out that British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is staying there. The Kakh spokesman explained that the motive for the action was to protest the fact that the Israeli Government permits its foes to visit it freely.

Papers Comment on Hurd Visit

YEDI'OT AHARONOT

TA1610113490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "What Is the Difference?"]

[Text] The British foreign minister, whose government does not recognize the unification of Jerusalem, was received here with all due respect, although he and his men were the architects of the UN Security Council resolution against us. This is not how we will treat the UN secretary general's delegation when it arrives.

If we feel like expressing our outrage, Douglas Hurd deserves it a lot more than the UN under secretary.

Many of the troubles in the region—including the Kuwait affair—can be directly attributed to the selfish, erroneous, and shortsighted policy of the British Government through the ages. Under UK auspices, the Muslims learned how to throw stones at Jews at the Western Wall and go undisturbed. Hurd's remarks in Cairo do not indicate a change in this attitude.

Nevertheless, Mr. Hurd was received here in accordance with the rules of protocol and diplomacy. Even if we say nay to the proposition he is bringing with him—to allow the international conference in through the back door—we will do that politely, instead of throwing both him and his proposition through the front door.

At the same time, we notified the UN delegation that it had better not set foot on our doorstep. What is the difference?

If the government made a statement that the entire world is against us and we are against it, it would have been more convincing had the government been persistent in its resolutions, for one week at least. Why is the UK minister, as a minister, allowed among us, while the UN under secretary is boycotted?

We could go on asking such questions, and not on Jerusalem only: The letter to Baker; the bombastic declarations on construction in Jerusalem; and more.

Before it engages in arguments or tries to persuade the local public, the government must present a united front right here at home on something very essential and elementary: consistency.

AL-QUDS

TA1610194590 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Oct 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Hurd's Visit"]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd began his visit to Israel yesterday, where he will meet with senior officials of the Israeli Government, as well as with a number of Palestinian notables. Undoubtedly, Hurd's trip to the region comes at a time when developments pertaining to the region's problems in all spheres are accelerating.

Just as the United States, Britain is also demanding that Israel, at this stage, stay out of the limelight on the Gulf crisis. This is to preserve the alliance in the Gulf region, especially with the Arab and Islamic states that have sent their forces to Saudi Arabia to provide an Arab and Islamic cover to the foreign forces.

Hence, Hurd's talks in Israel will center on the possibility of launching the peace process and finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. A deep gap separates the British and Israeli positions on this problem. Britain supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and calls for the convocation of an international peace conference with the participation of all parties, including the PLO. Britain believes that a political solution of the conflict should be based on Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967.

The Israeli Government, headed by Yitzhaq Shamir, was established on the basis of rejecting even U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's points, which called for holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo. In its program, this government rejected the principle of land for peace and a halt in settlement, and it affirmed its rejection of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and PLO participation in the peace process.

In the face of this vast chasm, the question arises: Is there any chance of bridging this chasm and finding common denominators? This will be possible either if Britain abandons its stated positions or if Israel announces its acceptance of international peace tendencies. When we talk about these things now, it is as if we are talking about the possibility of miracles.

Britain, as a major member of the EC and the country closest to the United States, and as a country that bears historic responsibilities for the Palestinian problem in particular, and the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, is today called upon more than ever to play a serious role based on the principles of international legitimacy.

We believe that the British minister's statements, calling for separating a solution to the Gulf crisis from the region's other problems, lack wisdom and foresight. Britain, more than others, is aware that what is required to extricate the Middle East from the cycles of dispute and conflict is to redraw the region's political map in conformity with the spirit of the new international era, which is based on peace and cooperation and not on infringing on the rights of others.

The region does not need political ideas that balance contradictions or tactical initiatives that seek to defuse the crises. There is urgent need to redesign the region's shape in a way that would ensure a solution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects and allow the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate national rights.

Shamir Message to Bush Explains Reaction to UN

TA1710052190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has sent a lengthy message to U.S. President George Bush, in which he offers continued bilateral cooperation. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr. Shamir sent the message two days ago, detailing Israel's motives for deciding not to accept the UN delegation. The prime minister explained in his message that the UN Security Council resolution ignores the attack on the Jews at a sacred site and harms Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem.

King Chairs Cabinet Meeting, Discusses Gulf

JN1310190490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn chaired the Council of Ministers' meeting today. A comprehensive review was held of the most important events in the Middle East region, particularly in the occupied Arab territories, the Arabian Gulf, and Lebanon. The internal situation was also reviewed in general, and His Majesty King Husayn praised the benevolent consensus among all the sons of this steadfast country for closing ranks and eliminating contradictions among the sons of the one people.

His majesty expressed his full satisfaction with and pride in the way democracy is being exercised, and the way the requirements of public liberties in Jordanian society in general are being dealt with. His majesty expressed his full confidence that the national charter will pave the way for the further organization of political life and guarantee for all parties the full and fruitful building of an integrated democratic society with coordinated activities.

His majesty gave instructions to do everything possible to safeguard this society, support the Jordanian Armed Forces, and expedite the expansion of the popular army's activity, allowing all the homeland's sons to play their full role in defending their land and future.

Regarding the events in holy Jerusalem, namely an abominable crime that has shocked the world, his majesty expressed determination to continue supporting the Palestinian people in attaining their legitimate rights to freedom, themselves of the yoke of occupation, and establishing their independent state His majesty stressed the need to take every possible measure on the international level to secure the protection and security of the Palestinian people and enable them to freely and honestly obtain their rights.

On the subject of the Gulf crisis, his majesty said the Gulf issue affects every Arab and Muslim in the world, and it is important to reach a peaceful solution that guarantees that the Arab nation emerges from it strong and healthy so it can play its full role in the new world currently being formed, and so that all the regional issues can be justly resolved.

At the end of the meeting, his majesty expressed his hope that the government would continue to work and make persistent efforts to overcome obstacles and pursue various issues facing the homeland at this delicate stage of our life.

Badran Issues Communique on Ration Measures

JN1010082990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today issued a communique subsequent to the Council of Ministers' decision to apply necessary measures to ration the consumption of energy and reduce the work days of the ministries and government departments to five days a week. The communique urges officials of the exempted departments, whose ministers or heads decide special arrangements regarding work hours, to inform the Prime Ministry of the special measures and arrangements they determine for the work hours of these departments.

UN Official on Need for Immediate Assistance

JN1610134990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[By staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan needs immediate financial assistance rather than pledges of medium-term aid to cope with the impact of the Gulf crisis and the Kingdom's adherence to sanctions against Iraq, and any delay in extending help could have very serious repercussions on the national economy. This is a finding of a special United Nations envoy who spent four days in Jordan assessing the impact of the Gulf crisis and the sanctions on Iraq on the Kingdom's economy.

"Jordan needs aid today, not tomorrow," said Jean-Ripert, a former United Nations official who was assigned to study Jordan's economic situation by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. "There is no doubt in my mind that the international community should give priority to Jordan while deciding on assistance to countries economically hit by the Gulf crisis," Ripert told the Jordan Times shortly before he left Amman after his visit. "Jordan can receive lesser money today rather than pledges of larger assistance."

The assistance to Jordan should come mostly in the form of outright grants and long-term soft loans rather than short-term commercial loans, he said. Jordan, which is already straining under the heavy burden of about $8.4 billion in foreign debt, "can do without short-term loans" which will only add further complications t its economy, he said.

Ripert, whose comments reflected a very clear understanding of the economic problems facing Jordan, said that while the Kingdom would lose as much as 30 per cent of its gross national product (GNP) during 1990 and about 50 per cent in 1991 in the form of exports, higher oil prices, expatriate remittances, transit charges etc., other countries stood to lose between 1.5 per cent and four per cent of their GNP as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Jordan's situation and problems are unique as far as the countries hit by the crisis are concerned," he said. "Every aspect of its economy—budget, GNP, balance of payments and others—have been hit very badly," he noted.

"I have learnt of the concrete consequences of the Gulf crisis and the Iraq sanctions on Jordan's economy," he said. "To me, it resembles a patient who is clearly on his way to recovery and (is then) suddenly hit by a stroke," he said referring to the pre-Gulf crisis situation when all signs indicated the Kingdom was following a steady and stable economic course after tottering in the early stages under the foreign debt burden. He indicated that Perez de Cuellar shared this opinion.

"Jordan cannot simply afford a loss of such magnitude, nor can it maintain any order in its economy without immediate assistance," said Ripert, who held several rounds of talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Fariz, and senior Central Bank officials. "I will be recommending to the U.N. secretary-general that the international community and organisations should extend urgent help to Jordan: This is my net conclusion." lose around $2 billion as a result of the Gulf crisis and the sanctions against Iraq and Ripert said while he had not formulated any "final figures," the recommendations he would make to the U.N. chief "will not be much different" from the figures compiled and submitted by the Kingdom.

"Jordan's record proves that it does not inflate figures," he said. "Of course, one can argue a bit on this figure and a bit on the other in any kind of situation, but I believe the Jordanian figures are pretty accurate."

Ripert, who also met with a group of Jordanian businessmen at his own initiative, said he had no doubts that Jordan was adhering to the sanctions against Iraq although such verification was strictly not part of his mission.

The U.N. envoy said he was planning to finalise his report on Jordan after meeting a team of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials in New York Tuesday and submit it to Perez de Cuellar by Thursday. The World Bank and IMF team is on its way to Amman for talks on Jordan's economic situation.

Ripert said he did not know what specific action the United Nations Sanctions Committee would adopt and whether it would set up a group of donor countries and U.N. officials to handle the issue. "My mission is to assess the situation Jordan and make recommendations to the Secretary-General," said Ripert, a French national who retired from active U.N. service in February 1989 after serving as director of economic development and international cooperation.

Ripert's emphasis on urgency of aid to Jordan comes at a time when a group of wealthy countries appears to be undecided over what course of practical action to take to extend further assistance to countries hit by the Gulf crisis sanctions on Iraq. The group, which met in Washington last week, will meet again in Rome in November; and Ripert although not directly referring to the group, voiced concern that "bureaucratic procedures" might delay the process of the actual delivery of assistance at a time Jordan can ill-afford such delays.

Jordan has received pledges of about $400 million from Germany and Japan—two countries which have offered to help the so-called "frontline" states of Jordan, Egypt and Turkey which are worst hit by Gulf crisis and the sanctions. But less than 50 per cent of it is in long-term soft loans with the rest under stricter terms. The European Community (EC), which said it would offer about $2 billion in assistance to the three countries, has not made any specific allocations.

Canadian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN1310214990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Raymond Cratine [name as heard], assistant secretary general of the Canadian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Amman from Damascus through the al-Ramtha border point, on a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he will meet with the foreign minister and other officials to discuss the Gulf crisis and how to settle it.

Mr. Cratine's visit to Jordan follows his tours of Algeria, Iran, and Syria.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN1310194790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 13 Oct (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Raymond Cratine [name as received], assistant secretary general of the Canadian Foreign Ministry, at his office today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of promoting bilateral relations, the Middle East situation, and the Gulf crisis.

In a statement to PETRA, Cratine said that he is visiting Jordan to acquaint himself with the true situation in the region and Jordan's position on the crisis. He said the Canadian Government had adopted a clear position on the Gulf crisis based on respect for international law and UN Security Council resolutions. He said the Canadian Government is fully aware of Jordan's difficulties resulting from the Gulf crisis. He noted the current contacts among several states regarding the best means to meet Jordan's needs. The results of these discussions will be announced in due time.

On Canada's reaction to the recent brutal Israeli measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and the attack on worshipers in the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard, Cratine said that the Canadian foreign minister has strongly denounced the Israeli authorities' use of force, and that his government, in its capacity as a UN Security Council member, exerted efforts to have the UN Security Council issue its recent resolution denouncing these practices.

Departs Amman 15 Oct

JN1610212590 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 15 Oct (PETRA)—Raymond Cratine [name as received], assistant secretary general of the Canadian Foreign Ministry, left Amman today after a visit to Jordan lasting several days. During his visit, the

Canadian official met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. He also held talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and the Gulf crisis.

Embassies Urged Not To Overstep 'Boundaries'

JN1410135690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 24

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Guest and His Overstepping"]

[Text] In our capital, there exists a state of indiscipline in the diplomatic corps that causes concern for the Foreign Ministry and draws the attention of a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires to the nature and limits of their work. Our country, which is considered a paradise for foreign diplomats and journalists, is today experiencing abnormal circumstances. These people must take these circumstances into consideration and fully abide by diplomatic norms and traditions.

Here we have an embassy that, in addition to the memoranda its Foreign Ministry sends to the United Nations, distributes copies of clippings from newspapers published in Cairo and whose editors are a group of mercenaries. These newspapers attack the Jordanian head of state with words that I, as a citizen, cannot accept; they also attack an Arab country whose struggle and leadership we highly respect. Had this embassy not been guarded by Jordanian security men and had the government not given it immunity, I, as a citizen, would have stuffed the mouth of those who distribute these base news clippings with their own clippings. No one in this country would allow any creature to attack the personality who represents the Arabism, nobility, and courage of these people or to attack the most honest leadership in this nation.

There is another embassy whose dinner invitations we warned about a week ago. Although we did not refer to any person in particular, these invitations, however, became instigations against our country's policies under the pretext of sympathizing with it and also became a poor example of intelligence work. We, as well as the government, have details that we are refraining from publishing because they are foolish, distressing, and nauseating.

The Arabs who are entangled in Arabian Gulf events do not want to understand our official position, because we did not participate with them in this entanglement. We state the following: The issue of Kuwait is an Arab issue, and it must remain so. Regardiang these events, we oppose the American and Atlantic military occupation of Arab territory under the pretext of protecting or liberating Kuwait.

The political language used by the Arabs who are involved in Arabian Gulf events and their attempt to hide behind the United Nations is no longer heeded. They have been exposed by the al-Aqsa massacre and the American and Atlantic position at the Security Council. Why do these Arabs not mobilize their forces and bring in the foreign forces to stop the Zionist occupation of Palestine, southern Lebanon, and the Golan? And why does this international legitimacy apply to Kuwait, but not to Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria?

We understand the activities of the ambassadors and embassies of the imperialist invasion forces—activities that are outside the diplomatic norms and values—because the position of the Jordanian people has surprised them and brought them up short. We do not, however, understand the meaning of this type of activity by an Arab embassy that vilifies us in our own country because we oppose an imperialist invasion that they know they cannot control so long as it remains on their own territory. They also know that they do not make the decisions on the moves and objectives of this invasion.

We urge the Foreign Ministry to distribute the convention of diplomatic work—its limits, traditions, and norms—to the diplomatic missions in Amman and to ask them to abide by this convention. They are guests here, and the guests should not overstep their boundaries.

Rizq Comments on Relations With France

JN1610165090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 90

[All passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Lebanon is still a hot major Arab issue in the region, especially after the recent developments in that country. Our news desk contacted Lebanese Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq by telephone this morning. He answered several questions. Our first question was: How will you tackle the issue of General 'Awn on the Lebanese level? The Lebanese minister said:

"The declared goal of the national accord government is to unify the country's various areas and factions in a framework of national reconciliation under the canopy of a unified Lebanese Government. All steps taken so far are aimed at unifying the Lebanese homeland, government, territories, people, and institutions. These natural steps are part of a process to restore the full unity of the country. The al-Ta'if agreement, known as the national accord document, stipulates that the process of dissolving the militias should start when the constitutional amendments law is signed and issued and when the political reforms are approved. The government has repeatedly declared that plans to dissolve the militias are under discussion. None other than the one and only unified legitimate government and the legitimate rifle should exist in Lebanon. All talk about this issue centers on the national accord document, which we will certainly implement, God willing, until Lebanon regains unity in the full sense of the word and becomes a land of peace and harmony."

Regarding the issue of Gen. Michel 'Awn and French-Lebanese relations in this light, especially in light of Francois Mitterrand's statements last night in which he affirmed that Paris would not hand over 'Awn to the Lebanese Government, the Lebanese minister said:

"I believe that France firmly supports the legitimate government, national accord, and efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon. We do not believe there is intransigence by any party. We followed President Francois Mitterrand's statement, and we understand its dimensions. But we say clearly that the issue of the former commander of the Lebanese Army is no longer political or military, but a judicial matter, which has been referred to the courts. We respect the diplomatic immunity of all embassies in Lebanon under international agreements, especially the Vienna agreement. We do not want any misunderstanding or any political crisis with friendly France. Hence, we hope that this issue will be approached from the judicial angle and that each country's sovereignty will be maintained. We know that there is a difference between the concept of sovereignty and the concept of immunity. Sovereignty over all Lebanese territories is for the Lebanese Government. Every independent state in the world enjoys sovereignty except this country.

"Regarding immunity, I can say that foreign missions enjoy it, and we respect, as I said, international laws and norms. We also hope that each party will respect the other party's rights. Hence, I want to say that the Lebanese Government is working to heal the wounds and patch up the rift. So, it will not allow any revenge, malice, or settling of scores. We should not mix up the legal activity of courts in any country with any other consideration. We should no longer politicize the issue of the former army commander. We should, however, concentrate on the judicial aspect."

Asked if the excesses of some militias in East Beirut cause fear of resumption of violence in that area, the Lebanese information minister said:

"The Lebanese Government and Army, backed by fraternal Syrian forces, are exerting great efforts to prevent any violation of security and peace. So, they are determined to curb violations by any party. The real situation can be understood in light of 19 years of suffering, disruption, security breakdown, confusion, and violations. But we reject the continuation of this phenomenon, which has already been encircled and contained, and we are determined to guarantee security, honor, and peace for our people everywhere in Lebanon, and the life they deserve after their prolonged suffering and great sacrifices over the past years."

At the end of his statement, Edmond Rizq said:

We thank fraternal Jordan for its understanding of and sympathy for the Lebanese issue. We also greet his majesty the king, the Jordanian Government, the Jordanian House of Representatives, the Jordanian Senate, and the fraternal Jordanian people, who, we feel, are close to us, and who support us on both the national and pan-Arab level.

Rules Out Force Against Embassy

NC1710082790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Justice Minister Edmond Rizq has announced that the political asylum which France has granted to General 'Awn is no longer justified because the Lebanese state guarantees 'Awn's physical safety and a fair trial. Rizq explained that such asylum is granted for humanitarian reasons, but that the charges against 'Awn are of a completely different nature.

Rizq affirmed that there will no conflict between Beirut and Paris over 'Awn's fate, nor will there ever be a recourse to the use of force against the French Embassy. He stressed, however, that justice must run its course.

Minister Rizq declined to reveal the sum of money that the Lebanese Government is demanding from Gen. 'Awn, claiming he embezzled public funds. Finance Ministry sources, however, asserted that the sum in question amounts to tens of millions of U.S. dollars. REUTER cited judicial sources as saying that the Lebanese authorities have decided to freeze Gen. 'Awn's, Brigadier General Edgar Ma'luf's, and Brigadier General 'Isam Abu-Jamrah's assets in Lebanese banks. It is important to note that government sources earlier said that ‘Awn had seized approximately $75 million in Lebanese state funds.

Al-Huss Discusses ‘Awn With French Ambassador

NC1610113890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] After a meeting with the prime minister, French Ambassador Rene Ala pointed out that he held very good talks with Dr. al-Huss. Ala added: I say very good, meaning that we agreed easily. It would be regrettable if anything was allowed to affect French-Lebanese relations, but no one, and by this I mean the two governments, has any intention of allowing even the start of a crisis between two countries. Ala added: I personally would like to add that relations between France and Lebanon, and between the French and Lebanese peoples are too long-standing and genuine to be affected by anything.

As for ‘Awn's fate, Ala noted that ‘Awn was granted political asylum in France and will remain under French protection. If he is unable to leave, he will remain in the embassy. Ala pointed out that ‘Awn was granted diplomatic shelter [luju' diblumasi] in the embassy. As for political asylum, he added, it was granted to him, some of his companions, and their families when negotiations were under way on a cease-fire, which permitted the truce under which ‘Awn managed to leave for the French Embassy. Ala added: What I can say is that this was not done without the knowledge of the Lebanese authorities, who knew about it before he entered the French Embassy.

Answering reporters' questions on the government's reaction to French President Francois Mitterrand's statement regarding the former Army commander and the political asylum he was given by France, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said: No final decision has yet been made about the fate of the former Army commander after he took refuge at the French Embassy, and the issue is still under discussion and study by the government, which will decide on the appropriate course of action soon. Such a decision will naturally be one that we believe will serve Lebanon's national interests. We need not stress our constant eagerness to maintain good relations with France, which was and still is a friendly major state with which Lebanon is linked by long-standing historical ties and deep mutual interests. We are certain that France will respect the decision that the Lebanese Government will make, since such a decision will reflect the will of the Lebanese legitimacy, which France recognizes and supports.

Radio Lists Additional Recipients of French Asylum

NC1710083690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Informed sources have stated that the objective of French Ambassador Rene Ala's visits to President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss was for consultation over the developments and the issue of General ‘Awn. Ala also delivered to the Lebanese authorities a list of those who have been granted political asylum by France. They are: Gen. Michel ‘Awn, his wife, and three daughters; Brigadier General ‘Isam Abu-Jamrah and his eldest son; Brig. Gen. Edgar Ma‘luf; Brig. Gen. Michel Lahhud; Lieutenant Colonel ‘Adil Sasin, his wife, and his son and daughter; and two of ‘Awn's escorts, Mas‘ud al-Ashqar and an army staff sergeant.

‘Awn Said Seeking U.S. Help To Leave Lebanon

NC1610184590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] AFP reported today that the [Lebanese] Army set up a roadblock 100 meters away from the French Embassy, while twenty French soldiers wearing bullet-proof jackets were deployed at the entrance to the consulate.

In a dispatch from its correspondent in Beirut, the QATARI NEWS AGENCY said General ‘Awn made two phone calls in the past 24 hours through the French Embassy's telephone in al-Hazimiyah. ‘Awn inquired about the possibility of U.S. intervention to secure his travel outside Lebanon—understood to mean to France—since he obtained the right to political asylum in France. The agency added that ‘Awn did not receive any answer to his request in these two calls.

Groups Accused of Exploiting ‘State of Disorder’

NC1610211290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja‘ja‘ has commented on the ongoing excesses and acts of aggression against civilians in the two al-Matn areas. He said certain opportunist groups, which create more problems for their friends than for their enemies, have exploited the anarchy following General ‘Awn's downfall, to attempt to build bases for themselves, seize the army's weapon's and ammunition, rob houses, or commit acts of aggression. He noted that this is a bad phenomenon and asserted his confidence in the Lebanese state, embodied in Army commander Gen. Emile Lahhud and his army. Gen. Lahhud and his army, he said, will control the situation as soon as possible to prevent the excesses of the hostile groups and stop their evil acts, so that we can pursue the process of reconciliation that started three months ago.

He expressed deep regret at the state of disorder that began two days ago in the two al-Matn areas. This, he said, is a temporary phenomenon because the legitimate authority will initiate its work from there. If it cannot start from there, he added, it cannot begin from anywhere else. He stressed that the legitimate authority will not fail in its task and we will not allow it to fail. He described what is taking place today as the dust of the battle.

He emphasized that the legitimate authority will establish its power as soon as possible, and called for being prepared for a calmer, more stable, and more prosperous forthcoming phase. He expressed his belief that the next stage will be a very appropriate political stage to resolve matters more than the previous stages which were of a military or semi-military nature.

He expresed optimism in the future and noted that political confrontations will remain within this framework and will not affect the daily life or the national march as a whole.

He said that Walid Junblatt must stick to his boundary, refrain from attacking people and exceeding certain points, and stop busying himself with the people.

Most Lebanese Forces POW's Released

NC1710100590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Most of the Lebanese Forces members who had been detained as POW's by 'Awn's group were released in groups on 16 and 17 October. The released detainees, now at the Lebanese Forces headquarters in al-Karantinah, are in good health.

Hizballah Radio Reports Amal Shelling

NC1710083090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Pursuing their bestial practices against the patient villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah, the gangs of Birri's Amal and various gunmen continue to shell these villages. The town of Kafr Milki came under 120-mm artillery shellfire from Kafr Bayt yesterday afternoon, which wounded four-year-old Mahmud 'Isa Hamdan.

Meanwhile, the township of 'Ayn Qana came under 107-mm fire. Three persons from the town—Aminah Mallah, 15, her sister Zahiyah Husayn Mallah, 13, and Yusuf Husayn Mallah, 11—were wounded. The shelling lasted until 1800. The town of Mlita also came under 23-mm automatic weapons fire from Amal positions in Humin al-Fawqa and 'Arab Salim at 1700.

Lebanese President Thanks Al-Asad for Help

JN1510195890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon, which he addressed to his excellency following the meeting of the Lebanese Council of Ministers on 13 October. Following is the text of the message:

On this historic day, on which the rebellion against legitimacy and the state authority came to an end, and a major obstacle that retarded the march of accord and salvation and peace in Lebanon was removed, I am pleased to convey to your excellency the decision of the Council of Ministers, which held an extraordinary session this afternoon to discuss the results of the military operation conducted this morning.

The Council of Ministers decided to address to your excellency its greetings, thanks, and gratitude. It also expressed its appreciation for your instantaneous, brotherly response to the legitimate Lebanese authority and its request for the assistance of the brotherly Syrian Arab forces to the Lebanese Army in order to complete this mission. I consider this response a practical expression of your constant position in support of Lebanon and the defense of its unity, safety, peace, and stability.

The Council also decided to address thanks to the generous Syrian leadership and the brotherly Syrian Arab forces, which, through their support for the forces of the Lebanese legitimacy, contributed to the completion of the military operation with no hesitation to make sacrifices. The blood of martyrs mingled on Lebanese soil in the unification battle, thus writing a new page in the history of relations between the two brotherly countries, based on the unity of objectives and mutual destiny.

Your excellency the president: Ending the rebellion against the legitimate government constitutes an important, qualitative step toward salvation, accord, and peace. It also provides a way to follow up on the implementation of the stages endorsed in the national accord document to expand the authority of the state, dissolve the militias, take control of ports and facilities, and liberate the parts under the Israeli occupation in our dear south.

Lebanon will always remember the support of fraternal Syria under your wise leadership for the march of salvation, consolidation of the unity of the people, and returning of peace to its parts. It will always remain most loyal and faithful.

May God protect you and lead you on the path of dignity and success in the march of fraternal Syria in the service of just, right, and dignified causes.

The message was conveyed to the president by Faris (Louis), political adviser to the president of the Republic of Lebanon.

Deputy Commander in Chief Addresses Forces

JN1610192390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of His Excellency Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, our Air Force and units of our air defenses marked the 44th anniversary of their founding. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief the Army and Armed Forces, and deputy prime minister and defense minister, spoke on behalf of his excellency the president. The Air Force and air defense command held a major function at one of our air bases. [passage omitted]

In the midst of chants for the life of the party and its Secretary General Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, General Mustafa Talas—representative of the commander in chief—gave a speech to the men of the Air Force and air defense units, in which he conveyed congratulations from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion Air Force and air defenses day, and his wishes of success in fulfilling their national and pan-Arab duties. [passage omitted]

The general—representative of the commander in chief—then gave a detailed explanation of the current situation in the region, reviewing events since the October war of liberation to this day. He emphasized that successive conspiracies have worked against the results of this war to keep us from pursuing its course and pooling Arab potentials through Arab solidarity that proved effective during the eternal battle of October. He added that the setbacks suffered by the Arabs have benefited the Zionist enemy to encourage immigration into Palestine, expand terror and fire, and build new settlements in occupied Arab land. The situation has been further aggravated following the wrongful war the Iraqi president waged against the friendly Iranian revolution, wasting energies and resources in the interest of imperialism and Zionism, and his recent invasion of Kuwait, putting an end to the state there, with the resulting complications of dragging foreign forces into the Arab region and handing Israel fresh gains. Talas said that if the Iraqi regime thinks it will get away with what it began, it is deluding itself, since the result has been a catastrophe and unforgivable sin, and since the logic of history teaches that aggression is doomed and that the struggling peoples will eventually prevail.

Gen. Talas said that since the Lebanese problem began, al-Asad-led Syria has helped this sisterly country to return to the shores of safety and resume its national and pan-Arab role in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to liberate southern Lebanon from occupation. [passage omitted]

Paper Cites Ties, Cooperation With Lebanon

JN1610181890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Future of Lebanon After the End of 'Awn's Rebellion," TISHRIN says: The operation that put an end to 'Awn's rebellion constitutes a qualitative landmark in the history of the Lebanese crisis. For in addition to consolidating security and stability in this fraternal country so it can ultimately regain the unity of its land, people, and institutions, the operation emphasizes the deep links that bind the sons of the one people in Syria and Lebanon.

TISHRIN goes on to say: President al-Hirawi asserted, in his cable of thanks addressed to President Hafiz al-Asad, that terminating the rebellion against the legitimate government represents an epoch-making, qualitative transition toward salvation, accord, and peace. It also provides the means to follow up on the implementation of the decisions endorsed by the national accord document to expand the authority of the state, disband the militias, take control of all ports and facilities, and liberate the parts under the Israeli occupation in the steadfast south.

Here, we must say that the above represents a working program for the legitimate Lebanese Government to pursue in the next stage the national accord that has become the new constitution of Lebanon.

TISHRIN concludes: The fruitful, effective cooperation demonstrated during the operation ending 'Awn's rebellion between the forces of our valiant Army and the forces of the Lebanese Army could continue in implementation of the national accord document, to consolidate the unity of Lebanon.

Saudi Foreign Minister Stops Over in Damascus

JN1610203790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stopped over at Damascus International Airport this evening coming from Rabat on his way to his country.

To receive and see off Prince Faysal was Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', directors of the departments of Arab Homeland and Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi ambassador to Damascus.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Meets UN Envoy on National Peace

LD1410221290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The Presidential Press Office reports that Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, this morning received at the Presidential Palace His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy of the UN secretary general. During this meeting, which was attended by Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, adviser to the president, His Excellency Benon Sevan give information to Esteemed Najibullah about the efforts by the United Nations to achieve a peaceful solution to the issues of Afghanistan. Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, also stressed the stance of the Republic of Afghanistan on achieving national peace in the country by means of talks and negotiation with all the sides of the issue; and requested acceleration of the UN secretary general's efforts to contribute to dialogue within Afghanistan.

Soviet Roving Envoy Mozhayev Departs

LD1310165490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0441 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 12, BAKHTAR—Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev roving ambassador at the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry who at the head of a Soviet delegation had recently come to Kabul for an official and working visit at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] left Kabul for home today. P.P. Mozhayev prior to his departure stated in an interview with a BAKHTAR reporter that the meetings of the Soviet delegation with a number of Afghan authorities were very useful and constructive.

He highly appreciated hospitalities extended to the Soviet delegation during its stay in the Republic of Afghanistan. The delegation was seen off at the Kabul International Airport by Ghulam Jilani Kargar chairman of the direct cooperation of the Council of Ministers, B.N. Pastukhov Soviet ambassador in the RA and a number of the officials of the Soviet Embassy in Afghanistan.

President's Spokesman Gives Statement on Gulbuddin

LD1310211190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 13 Oct 90

[News conference statement by Ghulam Sarwar Yurish, spokesman for the presidency of the Republic of Afghanistan, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul on 13 October—recorded]

[Text] [Yurish] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. A statement by the spokesman of the presidency of the Republic of Afghanistan:

An interview of Gulbuddin with BBC radio was broadcast last night. During this interview, he hypocritically accused the Government of Afghanistan of continuing war, and said that if the government stops the war, and if an elected government comes into power, the solution of the issue by talks is possible.

It is clear to all that during recent weeks Gulbuddin's plan of attack was widely exposed by the world's mass media. Everyone is aware of it. For example, the Government of Afghanistan in a statement issued on 4 October informed our compatriots that the military intelligence service of Pakistan designed a plan for an armed attack on Kabul and other regions of Afghanistan by Gulbuddin's armed extremists, who depend on that country. They attempted to implement this plan. Simultaneously, leaders of various opposition formations expressed their views about the plan designed by the military intelligence of Pakistan and Gulbuddin.

Sebghatullah Mujaddedi has expressly stated his opposition to the plan designed by the military intelligence service of Pakistan, and has exposed the plan. He denounced Pakistan for interfering and exerting pressure on other Mujahidin formations to implement the plan. He condemned Gulbuddin as a tool for the implementation of interventionist policies by the military circles of Pakistan against Afghanistan.

Gulbuddin, in his interview, claimed that the plan of this operation has been independently designed. He did not receive instruction or weapons from anybody or any source, whereas there is no doubt that the military intelligence service of Pakistan completely controlled the extremists opposition groups from the start. They organize and guide their activities. Moreover, Pakistan has not only supplied Gulbuddin with large amounts of weapons and ammunition, but the Pakistani officers actually participate in the dispatch and administration of operations by the Gulbuddin group. For example, an officer belonging to the military intelligence service of Pakistan was captured last night in Qandahar Province. He expressly said that, with the cooperation of his other colleagues, he was responsible for the coordination and instruction of the military operations by the armed Gulbuddin group. Furthermore, he admitted that 20 officers of the military intelligence service of Pakistan are engaged around Zabol province to regulate and instruct the combat operations of the Gulbuddin group. At the end of this news conference, this captured Pakistani officer will be introduced to you. Other undeniable evidence, showing the interference of Pakistan in the internal affairs of our country, will be soon presented to you.

Gulbuddin criticized other leaders of the opposition groups who have showed their opposition to the above plan of attack, and asked if the Mujahidin do not continue the war and do not attack the cities, then how can they achieve their objectives?

On the other hand, he has given voice to another lie that the state [Afghanistan] is responsible for the continuation of war. At present, when Gulbuddin's power display

[Qudrat nama-e], in the framework of Pakistan's military intelligence service plan, is being defeated by the heroic Armed Forces of the country, and when his forces suffer heavy losses, in order to distort public opinion, he claims that the armed attacks south and southwest of Kabul are routine, and are not part of a great operation plan due to start in the future. Gulbuddin claims that if the state stops making war, and an elected government is formed, the possibility for understanding exists. If Gulbuddin is truly able to act independently from the will of Pakistan's military intelligence services, and does not lie, and is ready to negotiate as he has claimed last night, he should be ready to hold elections.

Gulbuddin is responsible for the intensification of new combat operations and attacks. Therefore, as a first step, he should halt all types of combat operations and the movement and deployment of his men and groups in and out of Afghanistan. In this case, Afghanistan will be ready to declare a cease-fire the next day and to enter talks on elections.

The state is even ready to hold prototype elections in some provinces with the participation of Gulbuddin, under United Nations supervision. The Republic of Afghanistan states with full confidence that the efforts by the extremist opposition, supported and organized by Pakistan's military intelligence, can never achieve anything. However, unfortunately, as a result of such operations, a number of Muslims will be killed. The responsibility for this slaughter and intensification of war, bloodshed, and destruction, rests on Gulbuddin's shoulders and on those of his Pakistani patrons.

Thank for your attention.

Watan Party Official Views Program Changes

LD1510080790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0529 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 14 (BAKHTAR)—The Watan "Homeland" party in accordance with the requirements of society and demands of time and country's special conditions, has brought about serious changes and introduced amendments in its platform and action program. Now cessation of the war, ensurance of a nationwide peace, national unity and reconstruction of the country are priority and vital tasks with which party members are faced with.

This was said by Abdul Mobin, deputy-chairman of the party organisation in an interview with a BAKHTAR reporter today. Restoration of peace and reconstruction of the country is not the responsibility of a political group, party or organisation, but it is the basic duty of all progressive, democratic and peaceful forces of the country, for this reason after the second party congress, the Watan Party gave up monopoly of power and founded a multi-party system, he added. According to new platform, party does not any longer want to impose leadership role on other social and administrative organisations, he concluded.

Radio Updates Fighting Around Kabul

LD1410171590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The units and companies of the armed forces successfully continued their mopping up operations in the south and southeast [of Kabul] and have inflicted heavy losses of life on the enemies of the homeland and people.

The BIA military section reports that as a result of crushing blows by the units and companies, a number of the extremists—including Akhtar Muhammad, a ringleader—were crushed and two others were captured along with their weapons.

In the course of mopping up operations in these directions a morter, two Kalashinkovs, and a vehicle were destroyed and burned in Tangi, and a depot of arms and ammunition was destroyed and burned in Moghol Kheyl. Two new surface-to-surface Mezael missiles, 38 cases of heavy machinegun shells, 44 cases of Kalashnikov shells, hundreds of rocket launcher shells, and hand grenades were seized by the country's armed forces.

Also, as a result of artillery fire by the units and companies, a number of the extremists, including two commanders of the Wahhabi Sayyaf extremists group—Shin Gol and Nazar Gol—were crushed in the direction of Arghanday. And some quantity of their arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Kabul Garrison in 'Mopping-Up' Operations

LD1510224190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The units and companies of the armed forces of Kabul garrison continue their mopping-up operations sucessfully in the south. Today too the villages of Deh Naw, Moghol Kheyl, Baghi Soltan, and Lashar Kheyl were cleared of extremists.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that in the course of today's operation 97 surface-to-surface Mezael missiles, three heavy machineguns and 21 cases of shells, 44 cases of light machinegun shells, 92 mortars, and a clothes and foodstuff depot were seized, and three strong points of the extremists were destroyed.

Mujahidin Reported in Control of Zabol Province

BK1610154290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have occupied the capital of Zabol Province, Qalat. This is the mujahidin's second major success within two weeks. Many Kabul regime troops surrendered to the mujahidin with their arms and ammunition. According to reports, the entire province of Zabol is now under the mujahidin's control. Earlier, the mujahidin occupied the capital of Oruzgon Province, Tarin Kowt. The governor of Zabol Province, who surrendered to the mujahidin, said the Kabul regime aircraft bombed Qalat after its occupation by the mujahidin.

Bangladesh

Opposition, Ershad's Party Hold Dhaka Rallies

BK1410151790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Oct 14 (AFP)—Bangladesh's major opposition leaders pledged Sunday to continue their anti-government campaigns until President Hussain Mohammad Ershad steps down. "Our struggle will continue until the ouster of the autocratic government (of Mr. Ershad)," Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League Alliance told a rally to mourn the deaths of 10 people who the opposition says were killed by the police in the past four days.

Sheikh Hasina also charged that the government was trying to break up the opposition through a conspiracy but did not elaborate. Several thousand of her supporters later staged a protest march in the centre of the city.

At a separate rally nearby, Begum Khaleda Zia, who heads a seven-party coalition dominated by her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), echoed the call for a relentless campaign against Mr. Ershad and reiterated that her group would revenge the police killings of opposition activists. Begum Zia, whose BNP government was toppled by Mr. Ershad in a 1982 coup, joined a mourning march of several thousand people in Gulistan District.

Similar rallies and marches, all of which went off peacefully, were called by other opposition groups including the left-leaning five-party alliance of Nirmal Sen and the rightist Jamaat-i-Islami Party, witnesses said. In an apparent counter move, Mr. Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party [JP] held a rally of several thousand supporters in the Motijheel business district, the scene Wednesday of violent anti-government protests.

Several hundred police ringed the venue as top JP leaders including Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain and city mayor and Local Government Minister Naziur Rahman addressed the rally accusing the opposition of resorting to anarchy and terrorism. Mr. Hossain urged the opposition to shun violence and take part in upcoming national elections which were the only way to change a government. [passage omitted]

General Strike Leaves Dhaka 'Almost Paralyzed'

Police, Troops Patrol Streets

BK1510053690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0522 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 15 (AFP)—Police and paramilitary troops patrolled virtually deserted streets here on Monday during an opposition-led general strike against the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. The half-day stoppage almost paralysed the capital with vehicles off the road, shops and markets shut and government and other offices operating with reduced staffing, witnesses said.

Small groups of opposition activists, followed by police on lorries, marched through downtown roads shouting anti-government slogans and urging people to join the protest, they said. There was no immediate report of violence during the latest stoppage in a week of violent opposition-called demonstrations in which 10 people were killed and more than 100 vehicles burnt or damaged. A half-day general strike nationwide was also planned for Tuesday.

The strike, originally restricted to Dhaka to protest police action and mourn the deaths, was likely to spread to other major cities including Chittagong and Khulna, strike officials said. But local officials in Chittagong reached by telephone said there was no strike action in the port city where a medical college closed indefinitely Sunday after rival opposition student groups clashed leaving six students wounded.

Transport officials in the capital said despite the stoppage most trains left Dhaka's central station on schedule early Monday. But the capital's three long-distance bus terminals remained deserted and three of the six domestic flights scheduled to leave early Monday from Zia International Airport were cancelled, they said.

The latest campaign for the ouster of 60-year-old Mr. Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup, was called simultaneously by Bangladesh's mutually hostile opposition groups.

The dominant opposition groups are the eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League, the seven-party coalition headed by Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and a left-leaning five-party alliance of Nirmal Sen.

Police Fire Blanks, Tear Gas

BK1510131690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 15 (AFP)—Police fired blanks and teargas at anti-government student protestors who blocked a major highway during an opposition-led strike on Monday that virtually paralysed Dhaka, witnesses said. Several hundred students from Jahangirnagar University in Savar subdistrict, 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of here, blocked the Dhaka-Aricha Highway during the half-day strike against President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's government.

Students and witnesses said police and protestors fought pitched battles, exchanging volleys of bricks and stones, when police suddenly fired at least 50 blank shots and 20 rounds of teargas cartridges. Some protestors hurled the teargas cartridges back at the police, leaving some 20 people injured, witnesses said.

One student and the vice president of the university's journalist association, Shishir Shir, were seriously injured and were being treated at a Dhaka hospital, university sources said. Police in Savar were not immediately available for comment. The highway linking Dhaka with Bangladesh's northern districts was reopened but tension remained high in the area.

The latest campaign for the ouster of the 60-year-old Mr. Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup, was called by the opposition to mourn the deaths of 10 people and to protest police action in a week of anti-government demonstrations. Except for the clashes in Savar, the half-day strike passed off peacefully after almost completely shutting down the capital, police and witnesses said.

"Things were peaceful," a police official here said after the strike, during which vehicles stayed off the road, shops and markets remained closed and government and other offices operated with reduced staff. Public and private transportation was still sparse after the strike and many shops had their shutters down, witnesses said.

Earlier, police and paramilitary troops patrolled the deserted streets here as small groups of opposition activists, followed by police on lorries, marched through downtown roads shouting anti-government slogans, witnesses said. Transport officials in the capital city said despite the stoppage most trains left Dhaka's central station on schedule early Monday. One train was briefly stopped by activists but later continued on. Some domestic flights were also cancelled early Monday, the officials said.

Monday's stoppage was backed simultaneously by Bangladesh's mutually hostile opposition groups. The dominant opposition groups are the eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League, the seven-party coalition headed by Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and a left left-leaning five-party alliance of Nirmal Sen.

A half-day nationwide general strike was also planned for Tuesday. In seperate post-strike rallies, the opposition called for carrying forward a united campaign against the government and for taking the campaign to the villages and subdistricts.

Analysts Comment; Ershad Departs

BK1610052190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0423 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 16 (AFP)—A nationwide opposition-led strike paralysed the capital city Tuesday as Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad left for a three-day official visit to Belgium. The eight-hour strike, the third in a week, was called by the major opposition groups as part of their ongoing campaign against Mr. Ershad's government.

Strike-linked violence has so far left at least nine people dead and scores injured, including Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Apart from a small number of pedal-driven trishaws, all transport was off the streets and shops shuttered, as police and paramilitary personnel patrolled major thoroughfares on trucks or were posted at key points in the city.

President Ershad, accompanied by his wife Begum Raushan Ershad and a 28-member entourage, left for Brussels on a special Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight at the invitation of the king and queen of Belgium. Officials had earlier said the visit was aimed at increasing cooperation with Brussels and the European Economic Community, especially in the face of the Gulf crisis.

Some pickets were seen in and around downtown Motijheel business district as most offices operated a skeleton staff, who stayed in their offices overnight to avoid commuting during the strike period. The opposition have been waging a campaign against Mr. Ershad's government since he seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup, but have so far failed because of factional infighting, analysts said.

"Mr. Ershad would not have gone to Belgium unless he was sure all was well at home," one analyst said. Meanwhile, authorities announced late Monday that the Jahangirnagar University in Savar sub-district had been closed for a month after students blocked a major highway and fought pitched battles with police.

Students had been asked to vacate their dormitories by noon Tuesday. On Saturday, the volatile Dhaka University and the Chittagong Medical College were also closed for an indefinite period following similar incidents.

Radio Details Ershad Departure

BK1610112890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpt] President Ershad left Dhaka this morning for Brussels on a three-day state visit to Belgium. He is accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud will join the president in Brussels after attending the al-Quds meeting in Rabat. President Ershad was seen off at the airport by Vice President Moudud Ahmed. Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed and other cabinet ministers were also present at the airport. [passage indistinct omitted]

India

PLO Envoy Delivers 'Arafat Message to Singh

BK1710095390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Salman Hirfi, the special envoy of the PLO president, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, called on the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, in New Delhi today and handed over a message from President 'Arafat concerning the Gulf crisis. Mr. V.P. Singh expressed sorrow at the recent incident of brutal massacre of Palestinians in Jerusalem and conveyed his personal condolences to the bereaved families. He said that this incident highlights the need for urgent and concerted international action for a just settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Party Refuses To Attend Meeting on Shrine Issue

BK1610165590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, is in touch with several political and religious leaders from both communities over the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. The Union Home Ministry is also having consultations with concerned parties. The prime minister held separate talks with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders, Mr. I.K. Advani and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the representatives of Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP—World Hindu Council] and the Babri Masjid Action Coordination Committee. He also had separate consultations with two groups of Hindu religious leaders from Ayodhya and Rishikesh. They included Jagatguru Purushottam Acharya, Mahant Gyan Das, Mahant Ram Kewal Das, Maha Mandaleshwar Swami Vidyanand Giriji Maharaj, and Brahmachari Chaitanya. The prime minister is also in touch with Muslim religious leaders. They include Ali Mian, Naib [deputy] Imam of Jama Masjid; Mr. Jafar Jilani; Mr. Javed Habib; and Sultan Salahjuddin Owaisi, MP [member of parliament].

The Union Council of Ministers also took stocks of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue at its meeting in New Delhi this evening. The Council of Ministers noted the assurance given by the VHP in September last year to abide by the decision of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. The court in its interim order had said that the parties to the suit shall maintain the status quo and shall not change the nature of the property in question and ensure that peace and communal harmony are maintained.

The government has called an all-party meeting tomorrow to discuss the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue and steps to maintain communal harmony. It will be presided over by the prime minister. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, has sent letters to presidents of various political parties in parliament and presidents of the National Front constituents. He has drawn attention of the leaders to the resolution passed by the National Integration Council [NIC] in Madras last month appealing to all political parties, religious leaders and others to work for peace, mutual trust and goodwill. The Bharatiya Janata Party has decided not to attend tomorrow's all-party meeting. The party general secretary, Mr. Krishen Lal Sharma, told newsmen that the decision was taken at the meeting of the central office bearers of the party today. He said his party is of the opinion that the proposed all-party meeting will not serve any purpose as it is an extension of the NIC meeting which the BJP had boycotted. He said the party has also decided to convene an emergency meeting of the its national executive tomorrow to discuss the political developments and the party's likely response to the various issues.

Answering a question if his party has decided to withdraw its support to the National Front government, Mr. Sharma said no decision has been taken so far.

Replying to another question, he maintained that the Rath Yatra [journey by chariot to the disputed shrine in Ayodhya] will continue.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, is holding consultations with the senior party leaders on their stand about participation in tomorrow's meeting. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen this evening that the decision about the party stand is expected to be known by tonight.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has expressed concern over the growing tension on the Ram Janambhhomi-Babri Masjid issue and said that confrontations should be avoided at any cost. The politburo of the party at its meeting in New Delhi reiterated that if no compromise is reached, the court verdict should be awaited and respected by all.

Briefing newsmen, the party general secretary, Mr. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, said that no move should be allowed to demolish the mosque. The politburo also discussed the situation arising out of the antireservation agitation. It felt that the government should hold consultations with all sections to arrive at an acceptable solution to the issue. It also discussed various issues confronting the nation and the situation in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Assam. The party was also critical of the government for what it called the wrong economic policies which led to the steep rise in prices of essential commodities.

The Hindustani Biradari has appealed to the political parties and the governemnt to create a proper environment for a dialogue between the religious leaders to resolve the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. In a statement in New Delhi today, the convenor of Hindustani Biradari, Mr. Wasim Ahmad, has asked the religious heads of both Hindus and Muslims to enter into a dialogue to resolve the controversy keeping in view the interests of both the communities.

Further Reportage on Mandela Visit to Delhi

ANC Gets Diplomatic Privileges

BK1410140590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The government has decided to extend diplomatic immunities and privileges to the office of the African National Congress and to its chief representative in New

Delhi as provided to the UN organizations and their personnel in the capital. The decision has been announced on the eve of the historic visit of Dr. Nelson Mandela, who symbolizes the aspirations of the people of South Africa. Dr. Mandela will be given a rousing reception befitting a head of state as he has been accorded that status. The government and the people of India attach special significance to the visit of Dr. Mandela who spent 26 years in the jail of the racist Pretoria regime. Dr. Mandela will also visit Agra, Varanasi and Calcutta.

Says Pretoria To Release Prisoners

BK1610170490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The African National Congress [ANC] leader, Dr. Nelson Mandela, today disclosed that the Pretoria regime has agreed to release all political prisoners including those held for violent offenses. He said during the negotiations with President de Klerk of South Africa, a time-bound program had been agreed to for the release of all prisoners in phases by the end of April next. The ANC had insisted that all prisoners should be released if their offenses were politically motivated.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Dr. Mandela reiterated that there can be no other solution to the South African problem than the complete dismantling of apartheid, installation of a truly democratic government on the basis of universal adult franchise without any discrimination of color or race. Answering a question, he said the decision of the Pretoria regime to scrap the anti-amenities act is welcome as removal of means of apartheid is a step forward.

Referring to a question about the implementation of the Mandal Commission report [on job reservation for Indian lower classes], the ANC leader said he believes in social justice which meant equality of opportunity. Dr. Mandela said he would not like to make any comment except that he has complete confidence in the ability of the Indian leadership to settle their problems without interference from outside and he has no intention to interfere in the domestic affairs of India. Dr. Mandela expressed his gratitude to the governemnt and people of India for their steadfast support to the cause of South African people.

Welcoming Dr. Mandela, the information and broadcasting minister, Mr. P. Upendra, said the ANC leader is the torch bearer of all the values and ideas of Mahatma Gandhi. [passage omitted]

Receives 'Jewel of India' Award

MB1610180190 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1545 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpt] African National Congress Deputy President Nelson Mandela was today honored with India's highest civilian award, the Jewel of India. Mr. Mandela informed government leaders in India of the situation in South Africa, saying that talks with the government were still on course. However, he called on the Indian Government to keep up sanctions against South Africa, and warned that violence in the country would continue until racial discrimination was abolished.

Government To Export Agricultural Items

BK1410095090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The government has decided to export large quantities of agricultural commodities to improve the balance of payment situation. The food and civil supplies minister, Mr. Nathu Ram Mirdha, told the PTI in an interview in New Delhi that these exports would fetch 2,000 to 2,500 crore rupees worth of foreign exchange in the next two months. The exports are lilely to include one million tons of rice and as much wheat and one to two lakh tons of sugar.

Gulf Surcharge Levied on Petroleum Products

BK1410143190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] A Gulf surcharge of 25 percent has been levied on all petroleum products with immediate effect. The domestic LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] has however been exempted. An official press release issued this evening says the step has been taken to tide over the situation created by the Gulf crisis and the steep rise in oil prices in international market. The release says the restrictions on timing of petrol pumps [gasoline stations] have been lifted.

Srinagar Fire Erupts; 25 Die in Kashmir Blaze

BK1210125490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 12 (AFP)—A huge fire broke out in a residential district of downtown Srinagar Friday as 25 people died in another blaze that flared after a gun battle in a frontier Kashmir town. Residents blamed paramilitary Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CPRF) troopers combing the area for militants for setting the blaze in Srinagar, but there was no immediate comment from the government.

The residents said a huge column of smoke hung over the city, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir State. "We could see fire and smoke bellowing from houses," said Mohammad Rehman, press secretary of Kashmir's chief Moslem priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

"We can hear gunfire ... there is a lot of crossfiring going on," Mr. Rehman said, adding the security authorities had reimposed curfew, relaxed Friday for seven hours, at 3:00 p.m. local time (0930 GMT) and ordered people to leave the area. It was also not immediately known whether there were any casualties in the fire, which started just before midday according to residents.

Fires have razed more than 1,000 houses in the city's downtown area since Sunday when pitched street battles between the militants and the CPRF broke out in the old city and the Army called out. Meanwhile, Srinagar police sources said at least 20 Moslem militants were burned alive Thursday evening in a devastating fire that started just after a gun battle between the separatists and the security forces in a border village.

They said the fire was reported from the town of Kalaroos in Kupwara District, some 120 kilometres (75 miles) north of here in Kashmir, adding that five security men also died in the incident. The police sources said that a group of militants were hiding in the border village and a paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) contingent went there on a tip-off.

They said the BSF men returned fire when militants attacked them with heavy firing from automatic weapons. Immediately after the gunfight a fire started and engulfed the entire village, they said. A police spokesman said here Thursday evening that 10 militants were killed in the Kalaroos village encounter, but gave no details.

The sources said that by late Thursday police had recovered 14 charred bodies, adding that residents had fled the village. At least 1,750 people have died in violence linked to the Moslem secessionist campaign in the northern frontier state this year. Scores of people have been killed in Srinagar city, the urban hub of the quit-India campaign.

Government Involvement in Fire

BK1310082090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The government today denied the involvement of the security forces in the recent incidents of large-scale burning of houses in the Kashmir Valley. An official release said in New Delhi that the recent reports about the alleged involvement of the security forces in the torching of houses and huts in Kashmir are motivated and based on the accounts of the militants who want to spread disinformation to discredit and demoralize the force. The release further said that creating of rift between the local population and security forces is a major ingredient of the militants' strategy.

In the Kashmir Valley, six Pak-trained terrorists were arrested by the security forces yesterday and a substantial quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered. Five terrorists were arrested in Baramula District and one in Pulwama District. Security forces also recovered some arms and ammunition from the five-km border belt yesterday. The cache includes 17 AK-47 rifles, three universal machine guns, 11 rockets, two rocket launchers, one rocket-launching (?site), four pistols, 24 Chinese hand grenades, and five antipersonnel mines, and some other ammunition.

Muslim Militants Kill Six Hindus in Srinagar

BK1410164590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1624 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 14 (AFP)—Suspected Moslem militants Sunday stormed the homes of Hindus here and shot dead six people including a physician and two women, police officials here said. The six victims were killed in two downtown residential districts and some police officials said the attack appeared to be in retaliation to security crackdowns by Indian troopers in local Moslem homes.

Militants were trying to deepen the Hindu-Moslem divide in Srinagar, where scores of Moslem houses have been destroyed during gunbattles between troopers and secessionists, the officials said. Srinagar in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state and is the urban hub of a Moslem secessionist campaign.

Moslem residents have blamed Indian federal troopers of starting the fires, which last week destroyed over 1,000 homes in the city, in a bid to flush out the secessionists. Authorities have denied the allegations. Meanwhile, officials sources here said Sunday that 33 militants died in a devastating fire friday that destroyed parts of Kalaroos town in the frontier northern district of Kupwara during a fierce gunbattle with the troopers.

There was no official confirmation of the death toll, which was earlier put at 25 by a Jammu and Kashmir state administration spokesman. More than 1,755 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the militant-led secessionist campaign in troubled Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

One Legislator, 17 'Terrorists' Killed in Kashmir

BK1510161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Seventeen terrorists were killed and 16 arrested in separate encounters with security forces at different places in the Kashmir Valley during the last 24 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the terrorists.

In Srinagar City, terrorists shot dead three persons, including a former MLA [member of legislative assembly] today. The former legislator, Pir Mohammad Shafi, was shot at his residence. He succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

Haryana Police Fire on 'Unruly Mob'; Kill Three

Army Called To Calm Situation

BK1210160090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] In Haryana, three persons were killed and 12 injured, two seriously, in police firing in Bhiwani District town today. State Home Secretary Mr. J.K. Duggal told our Chandigarh correspondent that the police had to open fire on an unruly mob indulging in arson and violence and set ablaze some shops and government offices. The Army has been called to assist the civil administration for restoration of law and order.

Indefinite Curfew Set

BK1310084990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] In Haryana, indefinite curfew was clamped last night in Bhiwani Town following tension in the wake of death of three persons in police firing. The police had to resort to firing to disperse the clashing groups of pro- and anti-reservation agitators. Army has been called in to assist the civil administration.

In Punjab, curfew clamped in a part of Amritsar City yesterday and in Jullundur since Thursday night continues. According to an official spokesman, the situation in these towns is tense but under control.

Shoot-on-Sight Orders in Ranchi After Violence

BK1510081490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] In Bihar, the district administration has issued shoot-at-sight orders in Duranda area of Ranchi Town. According to deputy commissioner of police, a curfew has been clamped in the area after incidents of violence. Our Ranchi correspondent, Vijay Singh, reports that some antisocial elements threw bombs on a police party when it was making searches in the area last night. However, the members of the police party escaped narrowly.

Police Fire at Mob in Uttar Pradesh State

BK1410102090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, incidents of arson and brick batting have been reported from Almora and Abajpur towns in Nainital District. According to official sources, the police had to open fire and resort to a lathi [baton] charge to disperse mobs who were taking out the Sri Ram Jyoti Yatra [Hindu religious procession], defying the prohibitory order. Fifty persons, including 35 policemen, were injured. Meanwhile, the Lucknow district administration has ordered closure of all educational institutions till the 22d of this month in view of the prevailing situation.

Iran

Government Announces New Conscription Regulations

LD1610155590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Following a proposal from the conscription department and the judicial organization of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and with the approval of the exalted leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the commander-in-chief of the forces, the second phase of the law on increased punishment for draft dodgers approved by the War Support High Council in 1989 has been declared null and void. As of the 23 October 1990, all the absent conscripts who personally report to the conscription offices will serve three additional months, while those absent conscripts who are arrested will serve six additional months.

According to a Central News Unit report, the director of the country's conscription department announced the news this morning, in an interview with reporters, saying: The situation of those who were assigned to national service before 23 October is under review; once a decision is made it will be made public.

Meanwhile, referring to the situation of the freed POW's, from the point of view of national service, he explained the exemption cases as well as facilities provided under the law of protection of freed POW's.

The director of the conscription department said: For those Iranians who, while defending the Islamic Revolution, have been imprisoned abroad for a period of six months or more, and also for civilians who were taken prisoner at the beginning of the enemy invasion in a normal way, computerized exemption cards will be prepared once their cases have been confirmed by competent authorities.

He added: In the case of conscripts who are among the freed POW's and whose term of detention or status as a POW is less than six months, a reduction will be effected to the period of their national services equal to three times their term in detention or the time spent in the POW camp.

Majles Deputies Criticize Attack at Herat

LD1610124890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] In the wake of the attack launched by the Afghan government forces on the Friday prayers congregation in Herat, the Majles deputies signed a letter which was read out at today's open session of the Majles condemning those responsible for this tragedy. The letter says: The act of martyring dozens of Muslim worshippers and wounding more than 100 of them, which followed the massacre of innocent Muslims in Palestine, deeply distresses the Muslim community and free people. The deputies of the Islamic Majles, condemning such inhumane moves, demand decisive action against them.

Economic Talks Begin With Soviets in Baku

LD1610124790 Tehran IRNA in English 1107 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 16, IRNA—Iranian and Soviet delegations held their first round of talks within the framework of the joint economic commission in Baku, capital of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan Tuesday morning. Iran's minister of economics and financial affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Soviet Minister of Railways Nikolay Konarev are the co-chairmen of the commission.

The trend of economic ties between the two countries especially border exchanges and export of Iran's natural gas to Europe will cover the talks. Nurbakhsh arrived in Baku Monday night at the head of a ranking economic delegation. He is to discuss ways to promote economic cooperation and commercial ties between the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and the neighbouring Iranian provinces especially East Azerbaijan.

Several Majlis deputies, the governor general of East Azerbaijan province and representatives of the private sector accompany Nourbakhsh in his visit.

Yemeni Deputy Speaker Arrives in Tehran

LD1510213890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Sa'id al-Hakimi, deputy speaker of Yemen's National Assembly, arrived in Tehran today at the head of a delegation and was met by the deputy speaker of the Islamic consultative Assembly (Majles). On his arrival, the Yemeni deputy-speaker talked to our reporter, and said the purpose of his trip to our country is to develop and expand mutual relations. While announcing he was carrying a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he hoped that relations in the political, economic, and commercial fields may expand.

In his interview, he referred to regional problems, saying that these should be solved by the countries of the region. He condemned the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, and called for their withdrawal.

Turkey's State Minister Cicek Begins Meetings

Addresses Cooperation Seminar

TA0710123890 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] State Minister Cemil Cicek, currently in Iran on an official visit, has begun his meetings. He met first with Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian. Increasing the volume of trade between the two countries was taken up during the meeting.

Cicek later made the opening address of a seminar on the promotion of Turkish-Iranian trade and cooperation. According to information from ANATOLIA AGENCY, during his address, Cicek pointed out that the volume of trade between the two countries is lower than desired, and he added that the two sides are making serious efforts to change this situation.

Speaking at the same seminar, Nezhad-Hoseynian said that during the war with Iraq his country used up all its revenues for defense purposes. He added that now that the war has ended, Iran is interested in increasing its economic relations with Turkey.

Economic Seminar Views Trade

LD0710164290 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct 7 IRNA—Minister of Heavy Industries Hadi Nejad-Hoseinian Sunday underlined further expansion of relations with neighbouring Turkey "in view of current international developments". Addressing a two-day seminar on expanion of economic relations between Iran and Turkey, he said: "To this end present bottlenecks should be removed and volume of bilateral trade increased."

Turkish Minister of State Cemil Cicek described the seminar as a launching pad for large-scale bilateral trade transactions between the two Muslim countries. He said his country attached great importance to expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic, and expressed hope that with the removal of current bottlenecks, bilateral ties would expanded in all fields.

Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines Alinaqi Khamoushi, who was also present, noted that advanced technology of industrialized states coupled with hurdles thrown in the way of developing countries called for technical and economic cooperation. It is time for Iran and Turkey to make maximum efforts for further strengthen of economic ties, he added. The seminar will study present problems in the way of economic cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

Meets With Commerce Minister

LD0810045390 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji and Turkish Minister of State in Charge of Economic Affairs Cemil Cicek reviewed Tehran-Ankara economic and trade exchanges.

The two officials expressed pleasure over the growing trade exchanges between the two countries since 1980 and agreed that Iran and Turkey increase their mutual trade in the interest of their respective economies.

Discusses March Protocol

NC1110093290 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Dr. Habibi, first deputy president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, held talks with visiting Turkish Minister of State Cemil Cicek in Tehran today. Cicek said after the meeting, which was also attended by the Iranian minister of heavy industries, that the objective of his visit was to pursue the decisions included in the protocol signed between Turkey and Iran in March. Cicek noted that the talks he held with an Iranian delegation in

Turkey were very successful and expressed the hope that the two countries' relations will be improved.

Referring to the Gulf crisis, Cicek recalled the significant loss Turkey has incurred and said that his country hoped that the crisis will be resolved through positive and peaceful ways.

On his part, Dr. Habibi welcomed the favorable progress of the contacts between Iran and Turkey and expressed the hope that the political, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries will be further increased. Strongly attacking the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, Dr. Habibi asserted that Iran wanted the regional problems to be resolved in a positive way by the countries in the region.

Papers Criticize Turkish Press 'Foolish Claims'

LD1310224990 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—A Persian daily in a political commentary on Saturday lashed out at certain segments of the Turkish press for accusing the Islamic Republic of involvement in recent assassinations in Turkey.

The daily, KEYHAN, said "Certain notorious segments of the Turkish press" such as HURRIYET, were charging Iran with involvement in recent assassinations in that country in a bid to whitewash the police's inability to arrest the assassins. The accusations were levelled following the October 6 assassination of Bahriyeh Ucok, a former member of parliament and member of the Social Democratic Populist Party, who was killed when a bomb parcel exploded in her hands. The Islamic Movement Organization has claimed responsibility for Ucok's assassination, which was the 12th in Turkey in eight months.

The commentary also castigated another Turkish daily, MILLIYET for raising a similar accusation against the Islamic Republic of Iran. MILLIYET has claimed that other Islamic organizations operating in Turkey's neighboring countries shared some common views with the Islamic Movement Organization, the group which has claimed responsibility for Ucok's assassination. It alleged that a person identified as Salaheddin Ash, whom it said was working for Tehran radio, had passed information on advocates of the laic regime to the Islamic Movement Organization, KEYHAN said.

"Such ridiculous and foolish claims can be printed on only scraps of papers mistakenly called newspapers in Turkey....such claims will call the Turkish Government itself in question," KEYHAN said. The daily questioned "If the Turkish Government agrees to such foolish claims how can it speak about expansion of mutual ties and long-term cooperation (with Iran)? For what purposes is the Turkish minister of state for economic cooperation in Iran?"

"If Turkish statesmen believe in and claim to be advocates of the laic system, how can they allow a number of traitors who are against the interests of the Turkish nation to accuse them of involvement in assassination of persons such as Ucok?" it asked.

"The absence of a decisive response to such claims on the part of the Turkish Government's spokesmen is likely because they themselves are aware of the falsehood of the claims raised by HURRIEYT and MILLIYET. However, their absence for whatever reason will encourage such dailies," it said.

"However," KEYHAN said, "The Islamic Republic's move to expand ties with Turkey is based on Islamic goals and strategy and Tehran is still optimistic about the sincerity of some Turkish leaders, or else, it will respond to many of the nonsenses of those subservient and obsessive papers of that country."

Khomeyni Briefs IRGC on Zionist 'Atrocities'

LD1610123590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni received a group of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] officials and personnel this morning. In a speech delivered on the occasion, he condemned the massacre of the revolutionary Palestinian Muslims in the al-Aqsa mosque, terming it a new act of aggression by the Zionists, aimed at the annihilation of the revolutionary and Muslim Palestinian forces. Elaborating on the critical situation in the occupied Palestine, he noted some of the Zionist atrocities against the Muslims, and said: They intend to expand their realm from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Remarking on the peculiarities of the imam's line, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni emphasized: Practical initiatives should be taken to confront the Zionist aggressions.

Regarding the issue of Lebanon and the factional conflicts in that country, he reiterated the necessity of maintaining unity among the Muslims during the current critical condition, stressing the need to support the revolutionary and Muslim forces of Hezbollah, and to prevent the weakening of the Lebanese Muslim forces.

On the U.S. motives behind their military expedition to the region, he further reiterated the need for all Muslims to safeguard Islamic values.

Feda'iyan-e Khalq Majority Issues Document

LD1510115390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 14 Oct 90

["Text" of Document issued by Feda'iyan-e Khalq of Iran, Majority Wing; place and date not given; published by KAR magaziine, issue 79]

[Text] The organizations of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq of Iran, Majority Wing, rose from the heart of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq movement which took shape in the forties during their struggles against the shah's dictatorship, with democracy and socialism as their slogans. It is a movement whose constant objective is to serve the workers and the toilers, to establish peace, freedom, and social justice for the people, and to attain independence, economic progress, and honor for our dear homeland, Iran. The motto of our organization is socialism, and our struggle aims to attain the socialist values. Our objective is the realization of the values and the slogans of freedom, democracy, independence, social justice, peace, progress, revival, and welfare. We support the wishes and interests of the workers and toilers, engaged in manual or intellectual work, women, Iranian individuals, youth, and progressive thinkers, in line with those values. We believe that unity is the weapon of the hard-working people in their struggle against the masters of power and wealth, the basis for establishment of comradeship and the full participation of the Iranian people in today's society, and the achievement of progress.

The struggle for democracy is the fundamental pillar of our organization's struggle. We will fight relentlessly to free society from the forces of despotism and backwardness. In this connection the central council appointed by the organization's congress announces its political objectives and policies:

To end the sovereignty of the regime of the Islamic Republic. The regime of the Islamic Republic is reactionary, antidemocratic and is based on the principle of velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the jurisconsult], which has mingled religion and government, based its legislation on fiqh [religious jurisprudence], has placed the government in the hands of the clerics and has imposed the worst kind of religious despotism on our society. It is a regime that has deprived the people of their opinions and willpower, leaving them in the hands of an individual called the vali-e faqih [the supreme jurisconsult]. It is a regime that brutally suppresses the freedom of speech, opinion, political parties, press, associations, and other individual and social freedoms. It is a regime in which the inequality of men and women constitutes one of its tenets and official policies; one which has deprived women of their human rights. It is a regime that has totally rejected the rights of the ethnic minorities, and has suppressed their justice-seeking movement in the bloodiest of manners. It is a regime under which the government, a small minority, attains great wealth while most of society is wrestling with poverty, destitution, high costs, shortages, unemployment, and the rising housing shortages. It is a regime that harbors an irreconcilable hostility toward the national identity of the Iranian people and our country's ancient civilization, culture, and history. It is a reckless regime that praises war and bloodshed; expansionism and forced labor. In its entirety the regime of the Islamic Republic is irreconcilable, and recent major developments aimed at the expansion of democracy throughout the world have failed to make an impression on its despotic nature. Objectives, aims, policies, and the regime's constitutional law are incompatible with the people's interests and our country's national interests. Thus we wish to end the sovereignty of this regime.

To establish a parliamentary democracy in the form of a federal republic. Our wish is to establish a parliamentary democracy in the form of a federal republic, instead of that of the regime of the Islamic Republic. In such a republic a total separation of religion and any schools of philosophy and ideology is guaranteed. The three executive, legislative and judicial branches and also the mass media will be independent of each other. The country's officials will be elected. The national minorities will be granted autonomy, and their right to separation will be officially recognized. The central authority will consolidate the national unity through the strengthening and extension of democracy, removing centralization, and guaranteeing equal rights for all Iranians, in the management of the country's affairs. Individuals in each unit responsible for the country's jurisdiction and policies will be elected through a referendum by the inhabitants of each of the respective districts. The management of provincial affairs in all areas of the country will be under the supervision of the institutes of each province, town, district and village.

The people will enjoy total freedom in the formation of political parties, syndicates, and cooperatives. The society will support the formation of popular organizations and their participation in terms of decision-making and the acceptance of responsibility. The government and society will defend individual freedoms, human rights will be fully observed, and capital punishment will be abolished. The people will be allowed to demonstrate their resistance to the government, that is, they may stage strikes, demonstrations, and so forth. The government will have no right to resort to force in the face of popular resistance.

Various forms of ownership will exist. The government will set conditions in terms of competition and relations among various economic units, within the framework of the laws on economic progress, based on the people's needs or the interests of the society, protection of the envirnoment, and the proper use of natural resources. The government will protect insurance and pension funds, and the like. The government by employing economic levers such as progressive taxation will control the profit-seeking of the private sector. The employees will take part in any decision-making in respect of production, distribution, and service sections. The employment law is based on safeguarding employees' interests, guranteeing and protecting employment rights, removing any sexual discrimination, supporting the weaker employees, and also on the principle of the employees' participation in the management of the economic affairs and units, and will be formulated with the cooperation of the employees' syndicates and unions. Public social services will be consistently expanded. To absorb the hard-working and low-income groups in society the government will adopt specific policies in respect of their services.

The policy of national defense is based on economic revival and national solidarity. The national army, based on conscription, will be organized to defend the country against foreign aggression. The army, as a military establishment, is not allowed to interfere in state affairs. Military personnel have the same rights as other citizens to engage in political activities.

The foreign policy is based on the principle of nonalignment, respect for the rights to sovereignty of other nations, equal rights, defense of the rights of peoples for freedom, and defense of the rights of the weak and poor nations to prevent their dependence on major powers. The Foreign policy aims to safeguard the country's independence and progress and to consolidate Iran's status in the international community. The government tries through support for the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement and through cooperation with governments, associations, peace movements, and organizations for the protection of the environment, to play an effective role in creating a new and just world order, disarmament, detente, and protection of the environment. Membership of military treaties is forbidden. The government is not allowed to sign any contracts outside the supervision of the people's deputies.

Policy topics: Our organization, based on its philanthropic nature and democratic outlook, is in favor of adopting peaceful means in the struggle, and the political struggle rejects recourse to war, terrorism, revenge, reliance on the might of foreign powers, reliance on unwise and backward tendencies and immoral methods by whatever means that conflict with our values and aspirations. Our policy is based on increasing links with the people, clear explanation and promotion of freedom-seeking ideas in society, and mobilization of the masses to realize the just and democratic aspirations. The organization will continue the struggle to unite all forces opposed to the regime that believe in democracy and rely on the struggle of the masses against depotism. We believe in concentration of the struggle around the slogan of free elections. The Feda'iyan-e Khalq of Iran, Majority Wing, demands concentration of the struggle of the people of Iran against the Islamic Republic regime until free elections are held. In the effort to realize this slogan the regime's resistance must be broken by the people's struggle in various forms. We actively support any demand and struggle toward improving the people's living standard, strengthening democracy, and defending national resources. Our organization, in addition to pursuing the struggle for free elections, will actively participate in the current struggle of the masses to force the masters of wealth and power to retreat so that the people's living standard can be improved

While defending the justice-seeking slogans of various strata of the people the organization pursues the following objectives.

—an end to the interference of the clerical bureaucracy, Islamic societies, and the rest of the religious institutions in the country's administrative affairs;
—aggreement to abide by the International Declaration of Human Rights;
—an end to persecution, torture, and execution of political opponents;
—freedom of expression, parties, associations, and the press.
—sexual equality;
—work, housing, and better living conditions;
—increased salaries and wages corresponding to the inflation rate;
—support for the consumer vis-a-vis (?merchants), middle-men and importers;
—formation of the Republican Front.

In our country many organizations, parties, and socio-political figures are struggling to end the rule of the Islamic Republic's regime and to establish a republican regime with democratic and national characteristics. We call for the formation of an extensive front with the participation of all these forces and for a concerted effort to draw up its program. Concentrated struggle; the promise of the slogan of free elections; an end to the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic through the initiative of the continued struggle of the masses and the formation of a constituent assembly by the interim government affiliated to the Republican Front and to other forces taking part in its overthrow—these form the platform of our proposed policy for the Republican Front.

Every kind of consultation, united action, and other forms of cooperation with republican and democratic forces contributing to the goal of the formation of the Republican Front and the formulation of its program is welcomed by our organization. Our compatriots said no in the Bahman [February 1979] revolution to the monarchist regime and overthrew it. We consider that a monarchist system is undemocratic and reject unity with monarchists.

We call on those monarchist forces that have declared acceptance of the principle of people's authority [marja'iyat] and the establishment of an alternative regime by people's elected representatives, to make efforts in accepting democratic principles and a parliamentary republic.

We reject unity with the Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran organization so long as that organization calls for the establishment of a religious government and so long as it is dominated by antidemocratic and hegemonistic tendencies. We call on the Mojahedin-e Khalq to accept the separation of state and religion and to adopt a democratic outlook.

Based on our democratic outlook we defend the freedom of political activity for all opposition political parties and forces whether they are in agreement or in opposition to us; and in our relations with all of them we would allow the principle of negotiation and consultation to operate with the aim of defending national interests and strengthening democracy.

The unity of the left: Our organization defends the unity of the aims, organizations, and personalities who support the aspirations of socialism and socialist values reflected in a broad-based formation [tashakol]. It is essential to organize the left in Iran with the aim of strengthening radicalism in the national and democratic movement of the people of Iran and of continuously defending the interests of the working class and toilers of the country and struggle along the path of the realization of socialistic values.

Parallel with the efforts we will invest in the formation of the Republican Front, we will also struggle to make the left participate in that Front as a united and independent entity. Our organization recognizes that consultation, extensive united action, struggle for the achievement of a common platform, joint publications, and the formulation of a charter for a united left are among those effective and beneficial steps that can be taken toward the unity of the left in Iran, and we will struggle to achieve this.

Kurdish Leader Views Autonomy, Policy for Future

LD1210124990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] After the assassination of Dr. Ghasemlu, general secretary of the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] of Iran, by the reactionary Islamic Republic regime, Dr. Sadeq Sharafbandi was chosen as the new general secretary. To familiarize you with the positions of the KDP, we shall broadcast this interview and hope that it will be of interest to you.

Question: What has changed in the policy of negotiations with the Islamic Republic regime that led to the terror of Dr. Ghasemlu?

Answer: If by policy you mean turning to negotiations and talking as a fundamental principle, then I must tell you openly that this principle has not changed in the KDP. For any political trend or movement, or generally, any struggle, differences must come to an end and to reach that end, negotiations for an agreement [words indistinct]. However, its practicality can be questioned.

The murderous assassination of Dr. Ghasemlu and 'Abollah Ghaderi [deputy leader of the KDP] by the present regime in Tehran has once again clearly shown that [words indistinct] the Islamic Republic, not just for a solution to the Kurdish problem but for all of the basic problems of Iran, does not accept conciliatory means and does not hear any way except force.

Question: Is there any possibility for reestablishing negotiations between the KDP and the regime in the future? Please give the reason for this.

Answer: In fact I have answered this question already in response to your previous one. But for the time being, I do not see any possibility for talking with the Tehran regime on the Kurdish problem. As I said previously, if negotiations are to be held one day, it must be under clear and specific conditions. We believe that the condition for this is a clear and official announcement [by the regime] of its acceptance of the principle of autonomy. If the central government accepts this principle, then we can talk and exchange views on what can be built on this principle. Is the Islamic regime ready to accept such a condition?

Question: The KDP has, in recent years, striven for the establishment of a broad coalition [between progressive forces]. Has the Democratic Party still got the establishment of a broad coalition in its program?

Answer: The KDP, not just in recent years, but from the first days after the overthrow of the monarchy, strived for the [words indistinct]. The first call of the KDP for the establishment of a front was published in the year '54 [beginning 21 March 1975]. In those days, we had the two organizations of Fada'i and Mojahed particularly in mind; but due to their lack of understanding of the need for a united front, it was not welcomed by them. Our efforts, as you are aware, have continued to the present day. [words indistinct] we shall continue to do so. If the Tehran regime has managed to hold on to power until the present day, it is not due to its strength but the reason lies in the weakness and disunity of the opposition forces.

Question: In your view, what aims, specifically, should this front be faced with and primarily, which of the opposition groups should it unite? Which opposition groups are not [included] in this front, and why?

Answer: My view might not suit the views of those persons and organizations that today have put forward the so-called slogan of All Together. The reality is that any front or understanding must be formed under specific principles so that it is active within a particular framework. We can extend the framework as much as possible, but in any case it must be the required framework since [words indistinct] it is unnatural to keep them under one umbrella. We can see that in western democracies, especially in France, both the parties of the left and the right refrain from any cooperation with fascist organizations.

On the other hand, if such an understanding is to be reached that may even lead to the overthrow of the present regime in Tehran, then we still have not achieved any result since we all participated in the wide coalition for the overthrow of the monarch and have seen its outcome. Briefly, our view on the formation of a coalition is that the coalition should be formed by leftist and democratic forces—those forces that are republican, who believe in political and consultative democracy and democratic freedoms. Finally, those who have the stamina and power to organize toward the overthrow of the clerical regime, since, although the regime of the islamic Republic may be weak, slogans alone cannot overthrow it.

Question: The KDP puts forward the slogan of Democracy for Iran and Autonomy for Kordestan. Please explain the limits and boundaries of autonomy in your view, and also explain the future form of the Iranian leadership that can put those slogans into practice.

Answer: The slogan of Democracy for Iran and Autonomy for Kordestan has a clear message. The meaning of this slogan clearly shows that the principle demand of the KDP is justice and democracy for Iran, and the second part of the slogan, that is, Autonomy for Kordestan, is the logical conclusion of democracy. It can be said that autonomy is the particular form of democracy in Kordestan. If the meaning of democracy is that the people themselves should decide their future and the people should run their own affairs, then how can one claim that democracy has been established in Iran (?if Kordestan is not autonomous)?

The people of Kordestan are, if not more, then certainly no less Iranian than others and are denied their basic democratic rights; such as to live by their own culture and traditions, [using] their own language and running their own affairs. [words indistinct] we do not wish to leave Iran. It is clear that the same principle that applies to Kordestan, applies to other peoples of Iran. To that end, perhaps the ideal democratic form for the future of Iran may be a federal form that ends the colloquial description of being Iranian and separates being Iranian from being Persian. In any case, in the single country of Iran, the Persian language would be the single common language throughout the country; it would have a single army, a single unit of currency, and a single general economic policy; and finally it would have a single foreign policy.

I would like to point out another aspect of the slogan of Democracy for Iran and Autonomy for Kordestan that shows the organic link between the two sections of this slogan: Today, everyone is talking of democracy and the establishment of democratic rule in Iran. But we must not forget that, taking into account historical aspects and the economic and political situation of Iran, the establishment of democracy is not a simple task. Democracy in western countries is the result of at least 200 years of struggle, (?practice), and experience. It is this experience and (?practice) that has created the necessary organizations in those societies for the protection and guarding of democracy. In a country such as Iran, which organizations exist to protect democracy? To be clear, what guarantees are there that in tomorrow's Iran, democratic rule will not be overthrown by, say, a military coup? Or that the same regime, with a democratic face,gently-moves toward dictatorship? From this point of view, the decentralization of government and the presence of autonomous regions or a federation—since no democratic organizations such as syndicates, parties, or groups exist—may act as a lever to guard democracy.

Question: As the general secretary of the KDP, the major political organization that guides the just struggle of the Iranian Kurdish people against the Islamic Republic, how do you see the future of Kordestan and the fruits of the struggles of the KDP?

Answer: The movement of Iranian Kordestan, under the leadership of the KDP, is today, without wishing to praise ourselves, in its best possible form. Ideologically, the base of the party is stronger than ever. This is because from the start, the ideological roots of the party were democracy and the provision of national rights. [words indistinct] but, especially today, following the changes in the socialist countries both of these, that is, democracy and the provision of national rights, have become unalterable principles.

Structurally, the KDP has been more successful today than at any time in its 45-year history, even though it has fought a costly war for the past 10 years. All of this means that the party today consists of experienced cadres with an expanding structure, both in military terms and organizational capabilities.

In its influence today on both the international scene and throughout Iran, especially among opposition forces, the party enjoys wide recognition. On the one hand, the legitimacy of the party's demands and struggles is becoming known by the people of Iran and the opposition groups, and the people of Kordestan, more than ever before, trust their revolutionary party and increase their support for the party.

The wide scope of the actions of the party's peshmargas at a time when Kordestan has been completely militarized and over 2,500 military bases are present across Kordistan, is the most clear evidence of the support for the party and the cooperation of the people with the Peshmargas.

All of the above factors, plus the changes occurring in the world that also affect Iran, lead us to the more optimistic than ever before about the future of the party and the movement.

Kurdish Muslim Peshmerga Congress Held

LD1310174390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The two-day congress of Kurdish Muslim Peshmerga—held in Mahabad with the participation of Muslim Peshmerga of the Provinces of Bakhtaran, Kordestan and West Azarbaijan—concluded its work yesterday and announced that the Muslim Peshmerga were ready to suppress any kind of plots by the counter-revolution in the region.

According to the report of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, at the congress deliberations the Muslim Peshmerga referred to the basic role of the clergy in eradicating cultural poverty. They also warned against possible mysterious moves of the Wahhabis in the region.

At the concluding session of the congress, the commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps expressed appreciation for the selfless services of the Muslim Peshmerga as well as their self-denial and bravery in suppressing the enemies of Islam and agents of global arrogance in the region. He then stressed the need for a solid organization.

Official Praises Islamic Preferential Trade Plan

LD1310225590 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Istanbul, Oct. 13, IRNA—A Senior Iranian official Saturday termed approval of the plan for preferential trade system among Islamic countries "an important step towards formation of the Islamic common market". The remark was made by head of the Department for Economic Relations with Islamic Nations of the Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry Yussef Khan.

Yussef Khan arrived here last week to take part in the annual ministerial session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. He noted that the objective of the plan is to reduce customs tariffs and duties among Islamic countries. Pointing to the low volume of trade among Islamic nations, he said that the standing committee decided to compile a plan for the improvement of current economic relations among these countries. The plan, the official added, was approved at this year's session of the standing committee after five years of study at expert level.

With regard to the objectives of Iran's first five-year development plan, according to which non-oil exports would amount to 12 billion dollars, the Iranian delegation to the session exerted utmost efforts for the approval of the plan. The plan will take into consideration bilateral economic undertakings and their commitments towards regional and international cooperation, he noted.

According to the plan, Yussef Khan said, each member country can include those commodities which have priority over others in the list of preferential goods. The session concluded its work last Wednesday.

Editorial Discusses Need for Islamic Unity

NC1110143390 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 30 Sep 90 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "An Islamic Formation, a Cultural Struggle Against the West"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful.

The presence of a number of heads of movements and groups and of Islamic figures in Tehran is a good opportunity to strengthen unity among world Muslims. [passage omitted]

These people have a serious responsibility toward their people, the responsibility of carrying out unrelenting cultural efforts to confront the imported cultures on which the West and especially America have been banking for a long time.

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, America's policy has been based on the idea of exporting Western culture to Islamic societies which will be made to forget traditional Islamic culture and their own national strengths through attractive and tempting offers. However, if a culture of confronting force, oppression, and plunder in all Islamic countries regains its true form, then there will be no place for submissive cultures.

The main goal of pious scholars and statesmen should be aimed in this direction so that they can mold their people through the rich Islamic culture and form a new structure with a strong popular backbone. Without this backbone, no formation will be able to direct the Muslim world community toward unity.

The presence of the heads of Islamic groups in Iran gives them a good opportunity to see the domination of Islamic culture in our country and understand the secret of the Muslim Iranian people's unity and solidarity.

Importance of Unity Reaffirmed

NC1610133490 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Oct 90 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "The People and Their Canonical and National Duties"]

[Text] During Unity Week, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, stressed that at a time when the world of Islam is being called to unity, it is necessary for the various factions of the Islamic Republic to support and respect each other and to place respect for the Islamic system and unity above all else.

At a time when the people are joyful over their great victory—a victory which was the outcome of the system's leadership, the nation's resistance, the pure blood shed by the martyrs, and the captivity suffered by the free men—the country's current conditions are sensitive and critical. This is because of the enemy's rage over this victory and due to the Persian Gulf crisis and the presence of foreign forces in the region. Victory was achieved thanks to the people's unity and solidarity. To safeguard this victory and the grandeur of the Islamic system on the international scene, we need the unity of the people and of all the forces.

The past few days have witnessed heated arguments. At the same time, we have also witnessed how our zealous and revolutionary youths have expressed their concern over the verbal disputes, sometimes insulting, between groups. The people expect the various factions not to forget the interests of the people and of the system when they embark on their disputes, because if after the dust raised by the heated and insulting arguments settles they see that religious and national interests have been harmed, they will never again be willing to listen to such disputes, and this is not acceptable to the country's political society. If the political dignitaries do not have confidence in the law, then how can others be expected to do so?

In his remarks yesterday, the esteemed leader of the revolution pointed to Imam Khomeyni's respect for the law as one of his outstanding characteristics and said: Certainly if the imam were among us, he would never be happy with violations of the law, especially when they concern the election of experts. We too will carry out our duties of observing the law.

The enemies of Iran, the revolution, and Islam are now lying in wait for every opportunity to distort the face of the system, and when one group adopts a dangerous approach and ignores the interests of the people and system, the best conditions for the enemy are created. This does not mean that the door should be closed to all kinds of discussions and debates among people with conflicting ideas. The sensitivity of the issue is that in the heat of argument some insults intended to knock out an opponent are heard, and then the differences in approach are portrayed as disagreements with existing and endorsed laws.

Fortunately our people have proven that under such conditions they strive toward the implementation of the leader's decree with a good understanding of which is the correct road to tread. Now, on the eve of the important elections of the Assembly of Experts, they will carry out their canonical and national duties too.

Majles Session Canceled for Lack of Quorum

LD0710115390 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA—The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) did not convene Sunday as the number of deputies present in the Majles did not reach a quorum.

The Majles session was cancelled at 10:00 hours local time after only 135 deputies turned out in the parliament. At least 180 out of the 270 deputies must be present in the Majles in order to obtain a quorum.

A number of Majles deputies Sunday called upon the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khamene'i to take a stand vis-a-vis a "certain faction" whose absence in the Majles led to the cancellation of today's session. The Majles did not convene this morning as it failed to reach the quorum of 180 seats required for holding a session. Only 135 deputies of the 270-seat parliament turned out despite last Wednesday's announcement about today's session.

In a letter to the leader, the deputies regretted cancellation of the session and noted, "dire consequences of these irresponsible moves cannot be predicted and would deal heavy blows on the system". The signatories to the letter called on the leader to take a stand, "against this dangerous and detested phenomenon".

Majles Meets; Deputies Question Lack of Quorum

LD0910113390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Excerpts] In this morning's open Majles session, presided over by Deputy Speaker Hashemiyan, the proposal of a number of deputies for the removal of a single urgency from the double urgency proposal for the endorsement of the number of candidates for elections was put to a vote and approved. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that Sunday's [7 October] open Majles session was not held as a result of the absence, without valid reasons, of a number of deputies. In connection with the cancellation of Sunday's open Majles session, a number of deputies present on that day sent a letter to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution. They asked him to deal with the people whose unexcused absences caused the cancellation of Sunday's open Majles session.

In the deputies' letter, the legal position of the Majles and the fact that until now the Majles has played a sensitive role with respect to the lofty ideals of Imam Khomeyni, may God's mercy be upon him, and with respect to the confrontation of the enemies of the revolution, global arrogance, and its agents has been stressed. In the letter, reference is made to the unpleasant consequences of such cancellations of Majles sessions and asks the eminent leader to deal with this issue in any way which he judges fit.

Commentary on Need for Iraqi, Western Withdrawals

NC1510115490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0612 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Political commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Text] The stand of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on political developments in the region is characterized by logic and consistency. Within this context, the rejection of military aggression and of the use of force to forward political objectives as well as the need for cooperation and coordination among regional countries to fulfill their objectives and achieve security in the region are among the outstanding elements in the Islamic Republic's diplomacy. Stability cannot be established in this sensitive region unless all aspects of a situation are studied within the context of mutual cooperation and unless all parties act in coordination. Moreover, stability can only be established if the region is not threatened and occupied by foreigners and the big powers, especially the United States of America.

This is the true essence of Iran's foreign policy vis-a-vis recent political developments, and any deviation from this basic principle can create problems for the area's future. This is why, when answering a question from a LE MONDE correspondent on the best solution to the Persian Gulf crisis, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president, stated: Iraq should come to its senses and the foreign forces should leave the area. It is only then that the regional countries will solve their problems. If international decisions are implemented in full by the international community, then there will be no need for the presence of military forces because current international conditions call for solving problems through a sense of responsibility and by doing one's duty and not by resorting to force and inhuman means and methods.

The president's remarks manifest the Islamic Republic's stable and strong strategy vis-a-vis regional developments and the current crisis. It is on the basis of this specific strategy that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the area, the solution of problems and difficulties by regional countries, and respect for international decisions and resolutions without using military means and force are the best ways out of the current crisis. The regional countries must use all their energy and political-economic potential to attain this end, because it is only through the peaceful solution of differences that crises can be harnessed and controlled and disputes can be turned into unity, solidarity, and peace.

In the solution of disputes, the use of force is only a temporary solution. Political developments over the past four decades show that a final solution is better achieved through peaceful means and not by resorting to military strength. This is why, in his recent LE MONDE interview, the esteemed president stated: We too accept that resorting to force is sometimes necessary; when a violator does not come to his senses, force should be used. But it is preferable for solutions to be approached in a healthy way.

On the basis of this decisive point of view, the solution of the region's current crisis through healthy means is possible. The use of force is not the only way to achieve a final solution, especially since, according to the president, the West's stance should not be seen as the result of its their support for justice and for the oppressed.

The experience of political developments has shown that the West's main goal behind the use of military force is to consolidate its arrogant power, and it usually exploits crises to expand its multisided diktat. Therefore, its main objective is to extend its arrogant diktat and not to support nations and the oppressed.

The current crisis stems from this, and the only way to harness and control it is through the simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi military forces from Kuwait and of Western forces from the region. It is only then that a favorable atmosphere for coordinating action among regional nations toward the establishment of peace, stability, and security and for overcoming crises, tension, and disputes will be created—an atmosphere in which everyone will be able to make logical decisions.

Thus, as pointed out by the president in his recent interview, there is one logical and clear solution to the reginal crisis: Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the West's withdrawal from the region. Furthermore, the region's political borders must return to what they were before so that all countries in this sensitive and strategic area will be able to act independently.

Editorial on Release of Muslim, Western Hostages

NC1210163490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] The mercenary South Lebanon Army (SLA) recently released 40 Shiite Muslim prisoners from its notorious al-Khiyam prison in southern Lebanon. Human rights abuses and torture in this prison have been reported by international human rights organizations.

The SLA is obviously a mercenary of the Israeli regime. Release of the 40 prisoners by them has apparently taken place under Western pressure. Regional political analysts believe that countries which have hostages in Lebanon have shown a "gesture of goodwill."

But it should not be forgotten that the number of prisoners released is very low. Only in the al-Khiyam prison there are 5,000 prisoners, most of whom were abducted by Israel or SLA forces. They are in fact considered hostages.

It is hoped that Western countries who have undeniable influence upon Israel and its mercenaries will exert more pressure on them to release greater number of Muslim hostages. Then the conditions will be better for continued efforts for release of further Western hostages.

Iran has the greatest spiritual influence over groups holding Western hostages while Syria takes second place. Since the start of this year both Iran and Syria have exerted their utmost efforts for the release of Western hostages. It is these efforts which led to the release of two Americans and an Anglo-Irish teacher.

But unfortunately at the time that these Western hostages were released, the Western countries, particularly the U.S., instead of answering with a goodwill gesture of their own, reacted with pride and arrogance and talked about the weakness of the hostage-takers and the countries with influence over them. This led to the suspension of efforts by both Iran and Syria for the release of more hostages.

But today the conditions are ripe for the West, particularly the U.S. and Britain, to sincerely use their influence over Israel and the Christian Maronites so that the ground will be paved for the release of Lebanese, Iranian and Palestinian prisoners and hostages. If the West goes ahead and responds with a true gesture of goodwill then it can be hopeful that the problem of hostages in Lebanon will be solved before the end of the current year.

Editorial Describes Foreign Views of Revolution

NC1510135390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Oct 90 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "Our Revolution and Others' Reaction"]

[Text] Much has been reported recently about meetings between political and economic officials of various countries with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our foreign minister's meetings with dozens of his counterparts in New York and visits by various foreign officials to Tehran as well as remarks by some foreign dignitaries about Iran's significance and efforts to improve relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran all fall into this category.

Varying views and comments have been expressed about all this. One group considers these meetings and contacts as signs of the Islamic Republic's stable position on the international scene and believes that these events show that the efforts of world arrogance to isolate the system of the Islamic Republic have failed. This group maintains that most countries want strong relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as the greatest power in the region and a country with a stable policy and and decisive influence. This group believes these countries want to become acquainted with Islamic Iran's views on regional and world problems, and specifically on the current Persian Gulf crisis, on the spot and without relying on intermediaries. However, there is another group which assesses these events from another angle and considers the first group to be overly optimistic. This second group believes that these phenomena reveal not a change or revision in the policy of arrogance vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran, but instead that world arrogance—rightly or wrongly—sees some flexibility in the Islamic Republic's policy and is greedily awaiting an opportunity to improve relations with the Islamic Republic in order to promote its own interests. This second group points to the history of relations between the arrogant powers and the Islamic Republic, and emphasizes that such a dark and black record is a sign of the depth of the satanic powers' hostility toward Islam, the revolution, and the Islamic Republic. They insist that arrogance still feels this hostility and malice toward Islam and the revolution and that the current phenomena indicate their desire to see a change in our policy and to conclude that we have abandoned our policies and the aspirations and principles of our revolution. This group maintains that all this shows that arrogance hopes that the Islamic Repbulic will gradually deviate from its revolutionary ideals and principles and will start to walk along the path that they—the arrogant powers—want.

There is a third viewpoint. This group says that neither are the malicious efforts by arrogance to isolate the Islamic Republic a sign of our failure to prove ourselves in the world, nor is the lining up of foreign ministers of various countries to meet with Iranian officials a sign that we have proved our point. This group believes that the behavior and reaction of others cannot be considered an "absolute yardstick" with which to measure the integrity and soundness of the views and policies of a system or a revolution. Even though there are points that support both views, nevertheless the fact is that the correctness of a nation or of a revolution or system that the people have created with their votes cannot be measured by the reaction of others. It is not that this is impossible to do, but it is a complicated process which cannot be used to carry out either an optimistic or a pessimistic assessment.

This group believes that the Islamic revolution, by propounding new pivots, points, ideals, and criteria, is now regarded on the international scene as a way of thought that is alive, effective, and attractive and that has won a special position for itself. For the past 12 years, world arrogance has sought by every possible means to prevent the propounding of such a "criterion for measuring value" in the world and has tried, by hooliganism and through poisonous propaganda, to prevent the bright message of our revolution from reaching the ears of nations. However, that propaganda, those efforts, and that policy today stand disgraced and defeated and the enemies of the Islamic revolution have had to accept the reality that their former policies toward the Islamic revolution cannot continue, and they have thus had to choose a new path to tread. This should never be taken to mean that arrogance's hostility toward us has ended, nor that we have fallen into the trap of their policies and have retreated from our past ideals and stands.

Although arrogance did not want nations to hear our just message and although it wanted to eradicate our revolution, it failed in both attempts and today it is preparing to adopt a new policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It seems that the third group's approach best conforms with the realities. This is why it is better to think about this way of thought a bit more and to study carefully issues from this aspect.

Arrogance and its minions did not want to tolerate the Islamic revolution and naturally they were not pleased to witness the revolution's victory and the continuation of its grandeur. There is no need for us to think that there has been any change in this wish by arrogance today. The intention has not changed, but the conditions have. The arrogant still do not easily accept what is right, and if they see the slightest sign of retreat or flexibility over principles and criteria from us, they will undoubtedly be tempted to try to make us retreat even more. But this rancorous wish by the enemies of Islam should not prevent us from choosing and continuing the correct path while maintaining our principles and ideals in parallel with useful and effective activities on the international scene. We should not allow this rancor to sow any doubts in us.

The brave Iranian nation stood up for its clear stands, shed blood, and fought and inflicted losses on a savage and spiteful enemy. Such a nation will never deviate from its principles and will not be satisfied with anything less than consolidating what it gained through its struggles.

There is no need for a nation which has withstood all difficulties and tragedies, remained steadfast at critical times, and scored victories in its struggles to maintain its principles and ideals to not want to continue along the path that consolidates its principles. If, after studying the country's conditions, foreigners have hopes of such a development and are now smiling at us with these hopes in the back of their mind, they have once again committed a mistake in their assessment of the Islamic revolution, and this is why we should again wait for them to suffer yet another defeat. But if the foiling of political-propaganda plots by the enemies of Islam has convinced nations that they should have independent and strong relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and reach further understanding with the greatest power in the region, then naturally this phenomenon should be welcomed and the opportunity to establish such an understanding created.

Meanwhile, there are still countries and regimes that display overt and intolerable hostility toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Al Sa'ud regime is one. This regime did not miss any opportunity to express its hostility toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and toward each and every Iranian and did its best to perpetrate crimes. The memory of the savage massacre of the pilgrims to the house of God and the black record of the Al Sa'ud regime in the past few years still cause disgust.

If the Saudis think that under such conditions they can change things for the present by uttering a few words, but revert to their savage and unbearable policies in the future, they are profoundly mistaken. The Al Sa'ud regime should realize that its past policies were a disgraceful failure and review its erroneous policies toward the world of Islam and specifically the Islamic Republic of Iran and the pilgrims to the House of God. It should act in accordance with the reality prevailing in the world of Islam and not think it can change the hajj pilgrimage to reflect its wishes or the wishes of America and the other enemies of Islam.

This is something Muslim nations are following carefully, because the hajj pilgrimage is not something that can be taken lightly. Even more important than the hajj, however, is the occupation of the land of revelation by foreigners and their domination over the holy shrines. This is something that can never be tolerated.

The Al Sa'ud regime should understand that the world of Islam is extremely sensitive about the land of revelation and that the nations cannot tolerate the domination of the enemies of Islam over it.

*Economic Exchange Discussions With Jordan

90AS0470T London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] An economic delegation from Jordan will soon go to Tehran to discuss commercial exchanges between the two countries. This is the second Jordanian delegation to go to Iran since the Islamic Republic came to power. The first unofficial Jordanian delegation went to Tehran three weeks ago, but no reports were published in Tehran about it.

The news of the visit of the Jordanian economic delegation to Tehran was published by SAWT AL-SHA'B, published in Amman. According to this newspaper, the members of the Jordanian economic delegation include representatives of the Jordanian government and Jordanian merchants.

The regime of the Islamic Republic has always taken a hostile position towards the government of Jordan, particularly King Husayn. The government and king of Jordan continued total support for Saddam Husayn and the attack of Iraq on Iran during the Iran-Iraq war. King Husayn even participated in ceremonies firing artillery shells towards Iran.

At the present time, while Jordan avoids observing the regulations of the economic embargo on Iraq and supports Saddam Husayn, the visit of the Jordanian delegation to Tehran has aroused the suspicion of Western circles.

*Spy Networks, Smuggling Activities Discussed

90AS0449A Tehran ABRAR in Persian
28 Aug 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] The minister of intelligence announced the news of the discovery of a large gang and the arrest of its members who were engaged in smuggling national historical artifacts, the continued arrest of spies of the American intelligence organization (CIA), which has led to the discovery of several new and active networks inside and outside the country. Also, in regard to the possibility of arresting several other members of the so-called Freedom Movement Society he said: If the confessions of those who have been arrested can be substantiated, some others of them will be arrested.

Also, he briefed the reporters on the plans of this ministry to confront social and economic corruptions and the present crisis in the Persian Gulf.

According to ABRAR's correspondent, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahian participated in a news conference on the occasion of Government Week. In this press conference, he explained the past year's activities of the Ministry of Intelligence, congratulated the Islamic nation for their recent victories, and remarked about the duties and responsibilities of the Ministry of Intelligence.

He said: This ministry is active in matters concerning foreign issues, anti-espionage and popular security and information (which leads to preventing the occurrence of conspiracies). During the past year, it has been active in all the areas mentioned, some of which will be discussed here.

Then, in describing the discovery of the extended gang of diggers, smugglers, and dealers of the country's antiquities and cultural inheritance, which the Ministry of Intelligence was tasked to investigate, he said: From 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], we witnessed the wide-spread propaganda of foreign and anti-Islamic/anti-Iranian media asserting that the Islamic Republic of Iran lacks any sensitivity toward the export of cultural inheritance from the country. After investigations abroad and exercising domestic controls in this regard, we came across a large gang active in the digging and illegal smuggling of antiquities.

By controlling these individuals and their foreign connections, we discovered certain leads and were informed that these individuals aimed to smuggle an antique stone-carving of Persepolis. Following the discovery of this conspiracy, a house in Tehran's Yusefabad District was identified and many items of extremely high value, such as exquisitely hand-written books, were discovered. Another residence, on the 24th floor of a Tehran high-rise was also identified. This residence had been composed of several apartments linked together and was more like a castle which served as a place for parties and orgies of the gang members.

Continuing, the minister of intelligence said: Items worth billions of tomans were discovered, and the statements by those arrested in this residence led to the discovery of other new and very valuable items and new discoveries still continue.

He added: While maintaining contact with foreigners, this group would conduct digs in historic sights, and after the discovery of ancient artifacts, some of which bring to light some dark parts of our country's history, they would take photographs of these items and send them abroad. After pricing the artifacts, they would begin smuggling the items. Also, in other instances, after smuggling the items abroad and displaying them in galleries, these items were sold.

In response to ABRAR's question concerning the volume, the quantity, and the material value of the discovered items, the minister of intelligence explained: The precise view in this regard will be presented by experts and the head of the Cultural Inheritance Organization. However, the value of some of the objects has been assessed to be several billion tomans and some of the objects, due to their uniqueness in the world, could not be appraised.

He added: The quantity and volume of these artifacts are such that the head of the Cultural Inheritance Organization believes that 10 museums could be filled with them.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian described some of the discovered artifacts which belonged to the treasurers of Lorestan Cave as follows: A winged cow (unique in the world), gold masks, two gold plaques appraised at 70 million tomans, a gold pinecone, a glass jug with an exquisite cut for which foreigners had offered 1 million dollars, a glass item belonging to the Achemedian period, the statue of a cow made of admiralty-metal dating back to 4,000 years ago. This item had been smuggled out, but due to the relentless efforts of the officials, was returned to the country.

In describing the importance of the discovered artifacts, the minister of Information added: These discoveries were so important that the exalted leadership in his inspection of the objects said, "Every piece of these items relates to our history. It would be a scary thought if any one of these objects were put on display in foreign galleries and what treacherous individuals these people were who were plundering these objects that are the national cultural inheritance." He added: About forty members of this gang and their contacts have been arrested.

The So-Called Freedom Movement and American Spies

In another part of his statement and in response to a question concerning the situation of the so-called Freedom Movement, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian said: Basically it could be deduced by any neutral observer from the publications and newsletters of this grouplet that it participated in psychological warfare against the Islamic Republic regime and the government programs during the war and their propaganda was in coordination with foreign radios and especially with the Voice of America.

He added: The connections of members of this grouplet with certain circles in America and the American government have been discovered and about 20 individuals have been arrested—whose confessions will be broadcast on television.

He added: Those arrested have made confessions which, if substantiated, will result in more arrests. Continuing, concerning the arrests of other groups of American spies, he said: After the heavy blow dealt against the American spy network in Iran during 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], they tried to continue their activities by changing their style of work.

Mr. Fallahian added: Based on the confessions of spies, they did not believe that their communication methods—such as invisible writing—could be discovered.

They asserted that these methods had not been discovered in a country like Russia, however, through the endeavors of the unknown soldiers of the Absent Imam, this method and conspiracy was also neutralized.

For this reason, the American spy network tried to change its communication method and adopt signal communication in order to connect the network of its contacts. Fortunately, this method was also recognized, which led to the discovery of three American spy networks inside the country and two networks abroad.

Continuing his remarks, he said: A person by the name of Khosrow Matlubi, a retired Army colonel, was arrested as the ring leader of a spy network. By giving parties and inviting his former friends who were still serving in the Army or in other positions, he would gather information and dispatch it and would attract those who were susceptible to join the spy network.

While inviting the people to be alert, the minister of intelligence asked them to be on the lookout for those who, in private gatherings, seek to collect information and to be careful to prevent leaking any information to the enemy in this way.

He added: The people must consider that America is still acting as an active enemy of the Islamic Republic. In connection with collecting information, it had formed spy groups—especially in the border regions—all of which have been recognized and arrested.

Continuing, he explained about the discovery of another spy network which was formed to spy against the Islamic Republic and said: Someone by the name of Qa'emmaqami, who operated a sweet shop in Dubayy, under the cover of arranging visas for those who wished to travel to that country or to other parts of the world, would befriend Iranians and in some instances was successful in recruiting some individuals into joining the American spy network—all of whom have been identified and arrested.

Confronting Moral Corruption and Economic Terrorism

In response to questions concerning moral corruption and economic terrorism and the Intelligence Ministry's confrontation of these issues, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian explained: Investigating such matters as they pertain to damaging national security is among the duties of the Ministry of Intelligence.

However, since such matters are considered to be a part of the cultural and economic warfare against the Islamic Republic—according to the government's resolution concerning the efforts by foreign groups to propagate immoral behavior, especially in schools and universities, and in cooperation with the appropriate ministries—plans have been drawn up in order to familiarize parents, teachers, and students which will be implemented in the future.

Concerning confronting economic terrorists, he said: In some of these activities instances of spying, dissemination of information to foreigners—information concerning our industrial centers—certain activities have been conducted. We have come across cases such as accepting bribes, attempting to sabotage the Islamic Republic's purchases, smuggling caviar, and the unlawful remittance of foreign exchange from the country.

He then expressed his thanks and appreciation for the endeavors of the judiciary, especially the public prosecutor of Iran, and expressed hope that by the decisive punishment of the discovered and arrested elements, the judicial system can please the nation.

Concerning this ministry's policies during peace time, the minister of intelligence said: As a result of the recent developments in the eastern bloc, many grouplets have become repentant and some others, by observing the ever-increasing stability of the Islamic Republic, are retreating.

He added: In this period, attempts will be made to prevent the occurrence of conspiracies. Since the philosophy behind the existence of this ministry concerns these issues, we shall try to identify elements who create displeasure and dissatisfaction which may be utilized by foreign intelligence services.

He announced that presentation of solutions to the officials in regard to dealing with intelligence issues will be among the ministry's programs. He also explained how the enemy takes advantage of our compatriots' need to obtain visas for foreign travels and their capitalization on the elements of the former regime, monarchists and Iranians residing in the United States. He asked the people to be cautious in their dealings with such individuals in order to prevent falling prey to the enemy.

The Recent Crisis in the Persian Gulf

In response to a question concerning the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian described this presence to be against the will of the advising Muslim countries of the region.

He also emphasized the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic's position and said: Now this legitimacy of position has been also proven to our enemies as a result of the heroic resistance of the people.

Concerning the possibility of a military attack against Iraq, the minister of intelligence said: If Iraq is attacked, the region will fall into turmoil and the export of oil will be halted.

While emphasizing the role of popular intelligence in the discovery of conspiracies against the Islamic Republic, he asked that the people inform this ministry through letters, telephoning the information headquarters of the Intelligence Ministry, or by contacting confidants who are certain to inform the ministry about the information and thus alert the officials to activities of spies or connected elements.

The minister of intelligence also emphasized that—as a result of endeavors by the brothers of the Foreign Ministry, the Judiciary, and through facilities provided by the Intelligence Ministry—representatives of international organizations inspected various detention centers, observed the prevailing conditions to be just and reflected this in their reports.

He expressed hope that, with the concern and alertness of the people, tranquillity can be maintained and conspiracies shall be discovered before they occur and, through guiding and advising the arrested, God willing, we shall reach a point where we don't need prisons for these matters.

Khamene'i's Remarks to the Information Ministry

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, during an inspection of the discovered artifacts by the brothers of the Intelligence Ministry, issued the following statement:

In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful

The Almighty must be praised....You dear ones must be thanked for your valuable endeavors which enabled you to save the immense wealth belonging to the Iranian nation and, above and beyond that, protected the honor of this nation which would have been smeared in dirt as a result of the plundering of this treasure. These silent crusades have substantial rewards in addition to the fact that success and victory in such battles is in itself a great reward. I thank each and every one of you, praise you, and pray for you. God willing, the Merciful shall be pleased with you and the sacred heart of the exalted custodian [the absent imam] and the sacred spirit of our past imam be pleased with you. May God bestow upon you worldly and divine rewards.
God's Peace and Mercy upon you,
Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
18 March 1990

*State To Extend Gas Pipeline to Europe, Asia

90AS0050C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 12 Sep 90 p 8

[Interview with spokesman of the Majles oil committee by KEYHAN; date and place not specified]

[Text] **Mahmudabad—KEYHAN correspondent, 7 September.**

Iran will extend its natural gas pipeline to Europe through the Soviet Union and to East Asia through Pakistan.

This statement was made by the spokesman of the Majles oil committee in an interview with KEYHAN. He added: Iran holds second place in the world with regard to natural gas resources.

He considered the replacement of oil with a new source of energy unlikely in the short term and said: Considering the natural gas resources of the country, plans must be made to provide the needed energy in the world.

Pointing out that if war breaks out, the price of oil will increase to twice the present price, he said: Preparations have been made to protect the oil lines and ensure that we will not face problems in transportation should war break out in the Persian Gulf and the region become unsafe.

*Naming of Aggressor Must Precede Ties

90AS0470E London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 7

[Article by Dara Jahanbakhsh]

[Text] The trial of Saddam Husayn, the president and military leader of Iraq, for war crimes, although late, is finally justly being discussed. Saddam and his colleagues are responsible for the destruction of our country and the killing of our compatriots and especially for the horrible crime of using chemical weapons, for which the Iranian nation will never forgive them. Whether or not the prediction of the heads of some of the powers materializes and the regime of Iraq is defeated in the war prepared to suppress it and its leaders are put on trail like the Nazi criminals, or whether Saddam decides to follow the safe course and avoid fighting such a frightening force and retreats from Kuwait, Resolution 598 of the UN Security Council remains in effect. It must be kept alive and prevented from being forgotten.

With the new murmurs of official relations with Iraq, even though its details, limitations, and political dimensions have not been revealed, the regime of the Islamic Republic must be warned not to create ambiguity regarding the certain and undeniable rights of Iran in accordance with this Resolution as well as the 1975 Algiers treaty. The final duty of the leaders of the Islamic Republic is to seriously avoid normalizing political relations with Iraq until the resolution is properly and completely implemented.

Paragraph Six of the above-mentioned resolution states: The Security Council asks the UN general secretary to seek through negotiations with Iran and Iraq to leave the investigations concerning "the responsibility for the start of hostilities" to an impartial committee and to submit the result of the investigation to the Security Council as soon as possible in the form of a report.

Responsibility for the Start of Hostilities

The spirit and essence of Paragraph Six of the resolution which contains our vital interests is the "responsibility of the start of hostilities." The claims of the regime of Iraq, even though some time after the "start of hostilities," that it turned to persons, organizations, and governments to provide a halt to the hostilities and start peace talks and that Iran refused and continued hostilities is outside the content of the resolution, and its investigation is absolutely beyond the authority of the UN secretary general. For this reason, this claim of Iraq must be regarded null and void, beyond discussion or even being listened to.

The representatives of Iran must carefully collect the statements of the members of the Security Council who at the present time are stated as being against the regime of Iraq and also those of embassies and related offices in the Iranian foreign ministry, in addition to the statements of the leaders of the world from the East and the West to be used as documentation in regard to the aggressive nature of the leadership of Iraq against that regime and its goals, greed, and methods.

Leaving Investigations to an Impartial Committee

The procedures for electing the members of an "impartial committee" and who, how, and on what basis they are to be chosen are important. The personality of the members, their political views, scholarship, history and experiences, and a review of their works, biographies, and writings are among the essential requirements in the advancement of the dispute. According to the general principles of adjudication, both sides will be given an opportunity to express their views in regard to rejecting or accepting the applicants for the arbitration. If, for some reason, one of the arbitrators does not meet the requirement of "impartiality," if he has relations with Iraq, directly or indirectly, has previously expressed opinions against Iran in the dispute or has approved such an opinion, explicitly or implicitly, he should be rejected.

Investigation Session

The important, critical, and determining stage in international arbitration is the investigation session. For this reason, after preparing and organizing sufficient valid and reliable evidence, one must be totally prepared for confrontation in the investigation session. After the dispute is presented, the complaints are considered, and the answers are stated, there will be questions posed by two sides for each other and the arbitrators posing questions to both sides. Below, the most important principles in posing questions are briefly listed and summarized:

1. In formulating each question, keep three factors in mind: First, what your own intention is; second, what the arbitrators want to know; third, what the adversary would like to hide.
2. Address the questions to the arbitrators and avoid one-on-one confrontation with the adversary.
3. Pose the questions clearly and without attachments so that there is no doubt about what you are asking. Ambiguous questions cause chaos in the investigation and allow the adversary to avoid giving a clear response by taking advantage of the ambiguity of the question or pretending not to understand.
4. Every question must contain a clear and unmistakable point that is understood by everyone, and it must also be short. When a question is long, the line of discussion becomes lost, time is wasted and the arbitrators become tired. The arbitrators are more interested in listening to answers than to questions. For this reason, time should not be spent merely on questions.
5. Pose one question at a time; otherwise, everyone will be confused and the adversary will find the opportunity to answer one question, perhaps the simplest one.
6. Prepare the questions beforehand, but do not become captive to your lists. In some of these disputes, persons have been seen who do not pay attention to the answers but want to pose a definite number of questions and do not pay attention to the new points revealed during the investigation.
7. If the adversary avoids answering a question, ask it again, and whenever necessary repeat it.
8. Whenever you have evidence that the statements of the adversary are untrue, do not refute and deny his statement when the first lie is told, because you will give him the opportunity to retreat rapidly. Allow him to advance in his lies, so that when he is unable to retreat you can attack him.
9. If you employ foreigners for their information or experience, they should only be advisors. Entrust the main role in the defense to Iranians, and remember that "a mother suffers from the heart and the wetness in her lap."
10. In the same way that military men have strategies to intervene in terms of their combative capabilities, for this dispute as well, select a few people to play the role of arbitrators and two groups to defend the supporting and opposing views, and practice.

Even if this dispute is not the most important dispute in the political and judicial history of our country, it is certainly one of the few disputes that our country has faced, and it must be defended with complete readiness. Submitting a dispute to international arbitration is a full-scale war. It requires its own special strategies, tactics, tools, means, weapons, and ammunition. It requires experienced commanders to take advantage of every weak point of the adversary. Sometimes a phrase or even one word or one mistake can turn the dispute to their own advantage and enable him to make use of evidence that the adversary has presented to defend himself against the enemy. When an order is issued to fire, the documents, evidence, and proof must strike the adversary on the head in a calculated, coordinated, and orderly fashion and bring the dispute to victory.

Experiences of the Islamic Republic

Now, how can the Islamic Republic accomplish this task? With what people? With what idea? With what expertise, understanding, and knowledge? Given the conditions that it has created and the fact that in itself it is confused, no one is prepared to cooperate. The history of the Islamic Republic is dark in dealing with such disputes. There are no reliable reports on how the disputes of the Islamic Republic were made in international arbitration. What mistakes were made? What lessons were learned? What experiences were gained?

What tricks did the adversaries use? What were the defeats? How were victories gained? Were any reports made? Were such reports demanded and was anybody pursuing them? What the media has reported of the method of defense in these courts is the pulling of the necktie of the Swedish arbitrator and slapping him in the face. Concerning the downing of the Homa airplane in the Persian Gulf, there was one brief report on the basis of which the proof, evidence, bill of indictment, and the case was completed. How did it end?

Remembering the Brave

What happened to our champions in the ministries and our experts in international law, who were the fruit of years of effort, struggle, training, and experience? In regard to the bravery of these patriots, suffice it to say that after the revolution, when a bloodthirsty and cruel cleric proposed the changing of the name of the Persian Gulf to the "Islamic Gulf," they immediately showed him his ignorance and with words of steel that bring joy to every patriotic Iranian strongly prohibited him from interfering in such affairs. This one document was enough to cost the lives of the writers, preparers, and signatories. But these brave men did not hesitate to perform their sacred duty, which was to protect the rights of their country.

"Those who spoke in a hundred languages, What did they hear to choose silence?"

Can the Islamic Republic make it possible for these brave ones to come to the battle scene to defend the interests of their country, even for this dispute?

*RESALAT Reports 29 Aug Majles Session

90AS0426A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
30 Aug 90 pp 5, 15

[Text] According to the parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was the report on the past year's achievements by the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Majles by the minister of economic affairs and finance. The full text of the report is printed on pages five and 11 of this issue.

The second item on the agenda was consideration of the bill, Division of Responsibilities between the Interior Ministry and the Reconstruction Jihad Ministry. After a discussion and an exchange of views, its continued consideration was deferred to the next public Majles session.

The Majles will meet in public session Sunday morning of next week.

'Abdollah Hoseyni, Bandar Langeh Representative: Now is the Time When Persian Gulf Security Must Be Secured by the Nations of the Region

The first pre-agenda speaker in the Majles yesterday was 'Abdollah Hoseyni, from the Bandar Langeh electoral district. He offered praise and greetings to the triumphant soul of the late imam of the nation and wishes of a long life for the exalted leader of the revolution. He gave congratulations on the release of the dear prisoners of war and recalled the struggles of the patient people of Islamic Iran, and he praised the forbearance and the indescribable resistance of the president and the other officials.

The Bandar Langeh deputy discussed the martyrdom anniversary of the dear ones Raja'i and Bahonar. He said: Tomorrow is the anniversary of the oppressive martyrdom of two martyred teachers of the revolution, martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar, killed by the blind-hearted Mojahedin. The people must honor the memory of those dear ones and emulate their lives. Today, as the fruit of the blood of those martyrs, we are seeing the perpetuation of the government and the hypocrites wandering from Baghdad to Europe.

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker discussed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said: These days the world is witnessing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In accordance with Islamic principles, we have believed and do believe that any kind of aggression against the soil of others is condemned, and that the massing of forces by America and its friends in the Persian Gulf is worse than Iraq's military move into Kuwaiti territory. America wants to occupy the main Muslim shrine, first by concentrating its filthy and defiled forces to pollute this sacred land, and then by creating another Israel in this land.

The Bandar Langeh deputy discussed Kuwait's record and His Holiness the Imam's repeated advice to the sheikhs of the region, and especially Kuwait and the sabotage by the enemies of the revolution. He said: Even now, more than 12 years have passed in the blessed life of the Islamic Republic, and throughout these few years this nation has clawed its way through numerous difficulties, and through divine power and strength it has overcome them. From the first victory until now our enemies have never stopped their sabotage and mischief, and every day they have planned and executed some plan against us. During the war we did not have the opportunity to have a precise and calculated plan. Today, however, with the blessing of the Five Year Plan, we will be able to overcome many problems, an example of which is inflation and high prices.

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker discussed the obstacles to progress. He said: In the past we all claimed that imperialism obstructed our progress and was the cause of our economic stagnation. Today, however, with the hands of foreigners cut out of our country, what factors can be stopping our progress other than weak management, the lack of employment security, and the absence of criteria and specific values? To achieve the goals of the Five Year Plan, we must utilize experienced and committed people through the grace of the Constitution. God forbid that anyone should feel his progress has been obstructed.

On 19 August the respected president of the republic discussed the policies and general principles of the government's programs. The general training of the nation's individuals and organizations must be such that it is habitual to respect the law supervising their implementation. Breaking the law will be treated as a great fault and violation. To carry out this important matter, the government must take the initiative in carrying out its responsibilities, and it must also prepare for the people educational programs that can be implemented. According to this view, government workers, especially political officials, must be a model for others in this matter to keep other units from allowing themselves to break the law and put themselves at the center of everything, and they must deal with individuals and elements who are no less dangerous than the counterrevolutionary minigroups.

The speaker thanked the Majles Health Commission for approving the construction of several hospitals. He gave the following memos to the officials:

To the minister of energy concerning the condition for potable water in his electoral district; to the appropriate officials concerning the support of traditional occupations, which is the best way to prevent the emigration and unemployment of residents of that area.

To officials of the Ministry of the Interior, deal with the unfavorable agricultural conditions in his electoral district.

To the Council of Ministers, carry out the measure it enacted in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] permitting pickup trucks to be brought into the country by workers employed in the Persian Gulf.

In addition, he gave memos to the minister of education and training, the minister of the reconstruction jihad, the minister of housing and urban development, the minister of roads and transportation, the minister of agriculture, the minister of economic affairs and finance, the minister of culture and higher education, and the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone concerning the problems and difficulties in his electoral district.

Karim Shafe'i, Marand Deputy

Mr. Shafe'i, the Marand deputy, was the second preagenda speaker. In his talk he praised the esteemed martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar and he congratulated the president of the republic and his respected colleagues on Government Week. He expressed appreciation for the achievements of the last year and managing the country.

He then discussed recent measures enacted by the Assembly of Experts. He said: While supporting the recent measures taken by the Assembly of Experts, which addressed struggles likely to occur in future elections, I call upon the people, during the elections of the Assembly of Experts, to participate actively and verbally with the supreme jurisconsult for the procurement of experts who are good, sound, just, aware, and believing in the supreme jurisconsult. I call upon the outstanding clergy, the seminary teachers, the pious theologians, and the passionate experts on Islam to volunteer to serve on the Assembly of Experts and carry out their religious obligations, and by serving on the Assembly of Experts in the future, they will help the dear leader of the revolution to bring to fruition the aspirations of our late imam (may his noble grave be sanctified).

The speaker then discussed recent developments in the Persian Gulf. He said: It is not far from our minds that all the military mobilizations, analyses, pressures, and scenarios are a friendly military conflict to gain more of what is desired by America and the West on the one hand and Iraq on the other. There is no doubt that Iraq's attack on Kuwait was intended to solve its political and economic problems, to purge this country's bad features for the Arabs, to strengthen Saddam's political position in the area, to bring to an honorable end the struggle between Iran and Iraq, and to prove the thesis of Saddam's supremacy over the Arabs, while America's military mobilization into the area was aimed at achieving this nation's strategic goal of taking hold of the Persian Gulf and dominating its oil reserves for the purpose of applying economic and political pressure on the Soviet Union and on a powerful future Europe. Of course, America does not look hopefully at the prospect of a united Europe for its own interests. First of all, in Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Iran, and many other parts of the world America has shown that whenever it wants to carry out a military operation, it does not make threats. America prefers that Iraq remain in Kuwait for a time so it can establish forces in all the Arab nations and then the non-Arab nations in the area. It is moving the Arab rulers around like pieces on a chess board, and in this way it will gain dominance over the world's economic jugular vein. The service Saddam performed for America has perhaps never been performed by any other nation in all the life of America. Iraq made the preparations for America's presence in this sensitive part of the world in such a way that few nations doubt its necessity. From now on we will see the transfer of American military bases from Europe to Asia and especially the nations of the Persian Gulf.

Elsewhere in his talk, Mr. Shafe'i said: I offer emphatic thanks to His Excellency the president of the republic and to the foreign minister for his ceaseless efforts concerning the implementation of Resolution 598, to the respected minister of energy for his order to eliminate the malfunctions in the Marand network, to the respected minister of the reconstruction jihad for procuring credit for an earth dam and to the minister of oil for beginning implementation of delivering natural gas to Marand. I emphasize to the respected president of the republic that the enactment of the Five Year Plan is a small step towards development, economic reconstruction, and the nation's progress. Achievement of this plan requires concern and seriousness from high, middle, and lower management. I see less of this necessary concern in the lower management, and more consideration of this matter is needed.

The necessity for administrative revolution and change in the current structure of the ministries and the nation's other executive organizations has been stressed repeatedly by the imam of the nation (peace be upon him) and the nation's high officials, but so far not only have there been no fruitful steps taken, but sometimes administrative corruption, shirking, and giving clients the runaround have become matters of policy in some of the offices and municipalities. We hope some thought will be given to this matter.

Concluding his remarks, the Marand deputy delivered a memo to the Ministry of Industries concerning construction of the city of Marand and the Marand Ceramic Industrial Village, to the Ministry of Petroleum concerning the undesirable state of fuel delivery in the Province of East Azarbaijan, especially Marand, and to the Ministry of Housing concerning the construction of satellite cities in parts of the province, and he asked that the memo be dealt with.

Davud Haji-Naseri, Zanjan and Tarom 'Oliya Deputy

The final pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Haji Naseri, Zanjan and Tarom 'Oliya deputy. He commemorated the death anniversary of martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar, as well as the recent great victory with regard to the acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord, the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the borders, and the return of the dear released prisoners of war, and he expressed appreciation for the measures taken and the intelligence of the nation's foreign policy officials, the foreign minister and the president of the republic.

He then said concerning the brave released prisoners:

(1) I call upon the dear nation and the Muslims of Iran to treat those who have been released with the kindness and conciliation they would extend to their children and brothers, and to know their value and respect them. (2) I propose to the Islamic government that these dear ones be counted as a blessing, and that it not neglect to provide them with education in various technical, professional, specialist, scientific, artistic, military, and management fields to facilitate hiring and employing them in the ministries, organizations, and the various institutions. While the respected government officials must deal with them in a very delicate and fatherly way, at the same time they must avoid any kind of harsh or crude treatment of them. (3) It is expected of our nation's brave and combative released people that during the decade of reconstruction they must be sincere and ready in every respect, because the government needs these sacrificing brothers who crusaded for God and are moving towards God, and it is proud of them.

Mr. Haji-Naseri, while offering condolences to the families of missing persons, discussed the Persian Gulf crisis. He said: The important issue is the Persian Gulf, which has become a site for bloodletting by the foreign imperialists and the multinational forces. The factor that caused America and its allies to appear in the area was the invasion, aggression, and occupation of the territory of the nation of Kuwait by Iraq. While we condemn the occupation of a country by another country, we condemn the aggression of NATO and American forces in the area and we warn them to leave the area, or they will be faced with a teeth-breaking answer from the Muslims.

Elsewhere in his talk, he discussed the elections for the Assembly of Experts. He said: Just as our great and revolutionary nation knows, the Experts have extraordinary importance, and they have two important and vital responsibilities, designating the leader and supervising the work of the leader. In reality, for our nation, the importance of the Assembly of Experts became clear after the tragic passing away of His Holiness the Imam (may his grave be sanctified). We call upon the aware and ever-present-on-the-scene nation, while participating extensively and actively in the election of the Assembly of Experts, to elect people who have knowledge, activity, piety, and extensive political and social insight, who truly love the leader and believe in absolute velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], and who are just, rather than people who merely take a tactical and so-called political approach to this important and vital matter, which is one of the characteristics and benefits of the Islamic government and the heart of the Islamic society.

In conclusion, the Zanjan and Tarom 'Oliya deputy said: I ask the government and the nation not to forget the matter of the earthquake victims and the earthquake areas, which they are not doing. In view of the arrival of the fall season and the rains and cold, the problem of temporary housing for these dear ones in Gilan, Zanjan, and Tarom 'Oliya must be solved. I call upon the various organizations and ministries to cooperate sincerely in connection with the reconstruction of the earthquake-damaged areas. Here I think it necessary to thank the provinces, especially the Province of East Azarbaijan, which is engaged in reconstruction in the deprived district of Tarom 'Oliya, as well as the officials and managers of the Province of Zanjan.

Explanation of Government's One-Year Achievements, Read by Dr. Nurbakhsh

After the talks by the pre-agenda speakers, the report on the one-year achievements of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was read to the Majles by the minister of economic affairs and finance, which is printed for your consideration below:

Government Week coincides with the final victory of the great nation of Iran. First I congratulate the nation and the respected Majles deputies on this victory, and since they have created an opportunity to report on the nation's overall economic situation and its policies, which were made in the framework of the Five Year Plan and on the basis of which they actually plan economic moves, I say to you that in reality the executive power and the legislative power must act in coordination with more information than was used in decision-making and than is being used, and God willing, we will be able to obtain the objectives anticipated and proposed in the Five-Year Plan as the result of this coordination.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Nurbakhsh said: I have divided my remarks into four sections:

1. Production Policies
2. Financial Policies
3. Foreign Exchange Policies
4. Pricing and Subsidies Policies

Concerning production policies, he said. Special emphasis has been made in the Five-Year Plan on the matter of production and its crucial nature, so that in the plan book about 54 paragraphs and 54 sections have been devoted to discussing policies. Concerning production, which consists of increasing production, increasing productivity, making maximum use of production capacity, and other such matters, these have been prioritized for investment. Thus, provisions are made in paragraphs one and four of the plan first for the government to aim at its semi-complete and existing investments, and after that, to discuss increasing capacity and make use of existing industrial capacities. After the completion of this phase new investments are authorized with special priorities and procedures, including respectively water, soil, mines, gas, petrochemical industries, and other industries.

Such priorities in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], are set in view of the fact that foreign exchange, which is one of the key resources, shows the movement of production and production activities. To this end, foreign exchange has been allocated to various investments.

In the Budget for 1368, $975 million in profits are approved for development projects, of which about $949 million were actually allocated. This means that about 97 percent of the amount approved by the Majles was spent on development projects. The Majles allocated $276 million for production projects, of which about $273 million was actually spent. In 1368 we used about 99 percent of the approved funds. Concerning the projects in Note Three and the deprived areas, which have been given special emphasis by the respected deputies, they allocated about $70 million, of which $69.3 million, or 99 percent, was used. Finally, concerning other development projects in the budget, about $330 million was allocated, of which about $324 million, or 98 percent was used.

In this same regard, Mr. Nurbakhsh added: In the year 1368, on average we can say that they were able to use more than 95 percent of what was approved by the Majles for development projects, and of course these projects, just as I said at the beginning of my talk, were mostly aimed at capacity and semi-completed investments, which you yourselves have seen in your visits to various parts of the country, so we could deal with and complete these investments as quickly as possible. In reality we have added a new production capacity to the nation's total production resources, and it was for this reason that in the plan you showed special concern for this topic. The accomplishments of 1368 also show that the government has tried, with regard to this issue, to provide about 95 percent and even more of the foreign exchange needed.

Mr. Nurbakhsh emphasized: In the year 1368 there was a new movement in production activities so that the indicator for the large industrial factories, which is one of the criteria indicating the volume of production, according to the statistics we have been able to obtain (for 1368) shows that in the second quarter [22 June-22 September], after four years of decline, this indicator increased by about 8.1 percent. In general, over nine months the production indicator for the major industrial factories increased about 4.8 percent, and in reality this shows the beginning of a new phase in production activities. The allocations for which primary use may be made are for the nation's gross domestic production, and these decreased during the years 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], and 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], and every year we had negative growth. In 1368 for the first time we expect two percent positive growth. For gross domestic product, which is expected to increase much more than this in 1369 [21 March 1990-29 March 1991], we hope to achieve the level of an average of about 8.1 percent growth provided in the plan book. In any case in 1368 gross domestic product increased about two percent. Of course, this is not only industrial activity, and I must mention here that in the agriculture sector also the initial statistics show that fortunately the achievements were quite good in 1369 in the procurement of agricultural needs such as pesticides, fertilizer, machinery, and in the continuation of plans provided for unified cultivation and self-sufficiency in some crops. According to the latest statistics, as of this date more than two million tons of wheat have been purchased, and this represents growth of about 48 percent compared with the same period for the years 1367 and 1368, and we hope the plan for this same category of wheat self-sufficiency, the procurement of machinery and other organizations can be carried out in such a way that we can reach the goal set in the book and in the plan.

Mr. Nurbakhsh added: Growth in the production of agricultural products depends on this very timely procurement by agricultural organizations. For example, in 1369 the procurement of chemical fertilizer increased about 25 percent over the figure for 1368, and this in itself played a part in increased production, in addition to the other measures that were taken.

Fortunately, from the beginning of the year 1369 there was the opportunity for us to implement with greater precision what was approved and designed in the budget. One of the innovations in the budget which was most effective was the provision of a physical guage for machinery and construction materials, in the sense that precisely what is meant by carrying out this plan and putting its needed machinery and equipment into operation is specified. How much machinery does it need?

How much construction material does it need? At what times will these machines be procured? What are the duties of the executors of these projects, and in reality the insiders for completing them, whether in the industrial sector, the development projects sector, or in the agriculture sector, in view of the fact that in this way the machinery and construction materials at specific levels are given to the executors of the projects? How must these projects be carried out? This physical guage and the guage pertaining to machinery and construction materials, just as I said, is in the budget, and these things are specified before the foreign exchange is allocated. The work is done in this way, and following numerous and various meetings the organization held in various organizations, finally, in view of the foreign exchange resources agreed to by a majority of the ministers, the machinery and construction materials were specified in terms of the appropriate physical guage. For example, concerning machinery such as tractors, combines, trailers, buses, roller mini-buses, loaders, bulldozers, and other key machines, in the implementation of the projects the level of their production during a specific period of time is now specified. Suppose provisions were made to produce about 15,330 tractors, and even this was not sufficient for us. Then the number of tractors to be delivered in each quarter would be specified. For example it was said here that from 22 June 1990 to 23 September 1990 about 2,100 tractors, about 100 combines, and about 850 trucks must be delivered, and likewise for the other machinery that is needed in any case. It is thus specified for example what goods the Ministry of Heavy Industries must market in exchange for the foreign exchange allocated to it. In former budgets we merely gave this foreign exchange to a minister and it was generally unspecified how much product would be produced and where it would be delivered. Sometimes, because of matters beyond the minister's control or because of considerations made by the minister himself, in any case it was possible for other measures to be taken, or for other times to be set for delivery of the machinery. Now, in view of this physical guage, the minister of heavy industries is obligated to deliver the specified machinery at the specified times in exchange for the foreign exchange allocated, if we allocate the foreign exchange needed for this machinery, which is set at $1.4 billion for machinery and $1.2 billion for construction materials, including both domestic production and imports. Very well, this will simplify the task. Of course, this is only the beginning, but my emphatic advice is that we continue this. On the one hand the plan specifies how much machinery was given to the minister relevant to the organization using it. For example, the number of tractors and combines delivered to the respected minister of agriculture is specified, and in the same way the number of machines delivered at other times. This must be done in accordance with the plan that has been made here, for example, the amount of land under cultivation and the amount of agricultural production must be set. There are various links in the chain that can be connected in this way; they can be written down and conclusions can be drawn. In the other method where we only look at foreign exchange resources, saying sir, we allocated this much foreign exchange to agriculture, this much to heavy industries, there is no way for us to compare to see if this much foreign exchange represents the same thing provided in the plan. In the end, will it be used for the same purpose intended or not? The same method applies to construction materials. Suppose there is a quantity of cement, rods, or sheet metal needed, likewise for the other special items which are included and provided as construction materials. We can procure about four million tons of steel for 1369, of which of course more than two million tons will be domestic production. Again, here we will deliver the raw materials at the right time, so we can obtain the amount of product provided in the plan and procure the rest through imports. With regard to machinery, as we said, $1.4 million has been provided, and I consider it necessary that the respected deputies involve themselves in advancing some of the key and important projects, to see the results of their own labors.

He added: In the petroleum sector, the Arak refinery and petrochemical plant, the Bandar 'Abbas refinery, the completion of the Abadan refinery, the Tabriz, Shiraz, Esfahan, and Tehran refineries, the project to complete the pipeline and build oil storage facilities, new drilling operations, and the Kangan gas project are the projects for which the oil plan has opened credit accounts, and so far more than $712 million in credit has been opened.

He added: A total of $990 million in credit for oil has been opened and I emphasize that if there are foreign exchange expenditures, they will pertain to the projects that you respected deputies have approved.

In the section for Ministry of Energy projects, the projects for which credit accounts have been opened include Gilan Nartibi Cycle, Ramin-e Ahvaz, Martyr Mohammad Montazeri, Martyr Raja'i Power Plant, the Gharb Power Plant Project, and the Electrical Power Production and Transfer Project. The total credit opened for the Ministry of Energy is $1.435 billion. Mr. Zangeneh said that between Shahrivar 1368 [23 August 1989] and Shahrivar 1369 [23 August 1990] credit was opened for 4,870 megawatts of electrical power. Now the respected deputies on the Energy Commission may confirm this. The total amount of electrical resources we now have is no more than 8,000 megawatts. So far of the 4,870 megawatts of power for which credit has been obtained under the plan in most of these projects, I will say in general what these projects can now do in the way of production activities. Projects under the Ministry of Mines and Metals include Gol Gohar, Steel Alloys, Kavian Heavy Ribbon, Mobarakeh Steel, the Forusiliv Project, the Mobarakeh Steel Iron Ore Project, the Howz Mahi Iron Ore Project, and others. The total credit opened for mines and metals is $390 million, and the accomplishments of this sector show, and again you will see the volume of production these projects will have in total. Concerning the Ministry of Post and Telegraph and the digital switch projects and other projects they have, of the total amount provided in the budget, about

$402 million has been used. For the Ministry of Heavy Industries and the Ministry of Industries about $270 million in credit accounts has been opened, and if you look carefully you will see that the preponderance of it is dedicated to projects in oil, petrochemicals, and mines, meaning the same priorities that have been seen in the budget to give greater emphasis on these sectors and advance them. In practice, we have acted on the same basis in the allocation of foreign exchange. For these things, which are really a series of key projects, we have opened credit accounts. In the part pertaining to oil, $2.556 billion in credit accounts have been opened. In the Budget for 1369, the figure provided for credit by the end of the year is $4.861 billion, and if we compare that with $2.556 billion, that means we have put to use 52 percent. We have acted proportionate to the passage of time, and we are not behind schedule. The total foreign exchange allocated and used for development is about $4.47 billion. My request is that the respected deputies compare this figure with that of the past few years, this truly shows a jump in the nation's investments, and likewise, as you remember in the budget analysis, one of the dangers threatening our economic situation was the level of gross national investment or the ratio of investment to the gross national product, or what part of gross domestic production we allocated to investment, how much we allocate to new capacities. If you remember, this figure decreased to about 15 percent in 1367, down from about 25 to 27 percent in the year 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979], and the Plan and Budget Organization has warned that at this rate, by 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] this percentage will be down to about 12 percent, and this portends a very dark future. With regard to production resources, fortunately this volume of development activities, which just as I said foreign exchange has been allocated and credit accounts have been opened, meaning $4.470 billion, will create a jump in the ratio of investment to gross domestic product, it will create an increase, and we can say with certainty that if these projects continue to advance as well as this, from the matter of their machinery to that of foreign exchange and other matters, we will be able to say that with the increase in investment capacity, certainly gross domestic product will have to increase somewhat more.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Nurbakhsh said: In the area of financial policies, again we want to see what the government has done with what has been recommended in the budget book. I ask the respected deputies to take note, for this is a basic issue, that now in any case the Majles itself presented the general policy, and we are acting on the basis of that very thing, and we are moving ahead. I will read several paragraphs of what you put into the budget book and we are implementing. In paragraphs one and three, this is precisely what is in the plan book. Sometimes we are following policies in one direction and suddenly we see that in the Majles and in the pre-agenda speeches or in the views that are being given in various ways that, policies the Majles itself proposed are being severely criticized. Of course, we are acting in accordance with what the law is, but I thought it might not be bad as a reminder beyond what I have said that I read from the plan book along with what the government has done, so the deputies can judge that the government's policies are in strict conformity with what our Majles announces.

Paragraphs One and Two: Establishing a balance between revenues and payments in the government's public budget.

Paragraphs One to Six: Reducing the financial burden of the government's expenditures through the transfer of some existing responsibilities to the non-government sector. Meaning in reality I can say that you have required us to do a reassessment. On the government's responsibilities you have required that we transfer part of the government's duties to the non-government sector and that we turn shares in nationalized and government industries over to the people. According to the same paragraphs of which I speak now, in reality in this sector we are making a kind of reform of the economic structure.

He added: The government has concluded within the framework of these several paragraphs I have read here that this structure is not proportionate. There must be a reduction in the size of the government sector, and in two ways, one through a reassessment of duties, and one through a reassessment of shares. I will only say that you began by dictating this as a policy, and then you raised the issue of the balance between revenues and payments in the government's public budget, and in my view this is quite correct. If the government does not come and trim this huge tree that exists and cut off the excess branches, and to the same extent create revenue for itself, very well, in accordance with the plan you will still be able to say that I created a balance between revenues and payments in the government's public budget, but the plan book says reassess responsibilities and then create the balance between revenues and payments in the government's public budget, and this is so that in this way we will not try to create false income for the government simply because we want the government's revenues to be proportionate to its expenses, thereby imposing an excessive burden on the people because the expenses are great. The government can easily create revenue for itself through the services it sells, but if it is to sell these services at excessive prices and there is no proportionate change in the size of the government, this is actually a form of imposition on the consumer. In any case, here I will only say that it is anticipated that government revenues will increase about 25.1 percent, and here I will say what revenues were in the end, but with regard to this change in structure we have begun two basic activities. One pertains to this very transfer of shares, and one pertains to the reassessment of responsibilities in the government sector, and I will give the conclusion we have reached so far.

Concerning activities pertaining to the transfer of shares, I must make for you the point that since the year 1347 [21 March 1968-20 March 1969] when the activities of the stock exchange began, we can see that the height of its activities was in the year 1357, when the volume of shares sold and money changing hands was about eight billion rials, while in the period from Shahrivar 1368 [23 August 1989] to the end of Mordad 1369 [22 August 1990] the volume of stock market activities during this year was about 22.241 billion rials, or more than 2.5 times that of the year 1357. In other words, there is demand. I will also say that of this figure about 11 billion rials pertains to companies that either belong to banks or are in some way under the mantle of the government. Now, whether national industries, whether expansion or otherwise, or in other words whenever we have sold stocks this has been welcomed by the people and we were able to market and sell them. The problem we now have has to do with the marketing of shares, whether we are now to have a share for that or whether the people truly welcome activity in the production sector. In the year 1357 government paper was part of an aggregate that was sold in addition to bank shares and was part of the foreign exchange industries, while in the year 1368-1369 we have completely eliminated paper for government borrowing. In addition, we sell bank shares, which are really a part of our industries in view of their nationalization. I would like to conclude that the public welcome for activities in the production sector and for investment in the production sector is sufficient. Contrary to what might be said in propaganda that the people do not wish to go into production work, no, I think that this purchasing of shares is really participation in investment and production activities, because factory shares are sold here. Therefore there is such a welcome. The important thing is that we should be able to have sufficient supply, and if we market in accordance with what the trend shows, whatever we market the people will welcome and buy, just as during the past year more than 2.5 times the pre-revolutionary amounts were offered and sold on the stock exchange, a figure of about 22 billion rials, and just as I said, 50 percent of it was government companies. That is, in reality the same paragraph we approved in the plan, the proposal to turn shares in national and government industries over to the people, was a successful policy, and the people welcome it. This goes back to the fact that we can encourage government companies sooner and offer their shares to the people, and this change in structure is taking place because of this.

In the area of reassessing government sector responsibilities, and again, as I said, this is one of the matters in the plan as a policy that the government dictated, and the reduction of the financial burden of costs by transferring some existing responsibilities to the non-government sector, in this regard a special note was put into the plan book. Note 32 provides for a special commission and the subject of the discussion is also the government companies. An interesting study was made by the Plan and Budget Organization, with the participation of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, concerning a number of the government companies, and it is good that the respected deputies know in this regard what return is coming from the government companies, with a budget allocated to them of more than 8,000 billion rials, more than the budget we gave to the ministries and the government organizations, and with the allocation of 15 to 20 percent of the gross domestic product, and with the most modern technology and a volume of activity that is between 15 and 20 percent of the budget and finances in gross domestic product, and with all the resources at their disposal.

Preliminary findings in a study by the Inspection Organization shows that the aid the government gives to these companies, or the subsidies it gives them secretly or openly, as for example when you exempt a government company from taxes and customs duties, or when you put a line in the budget to compensate a company for losses, when they computed the total of this assistance they concluded that the volume of assistance totals about 1,200 billion rials. That is, if we came and drew a line around these companies and said sir, instead let them be companies that do business in accordance with the law, we would be able to add at least 1,200 billion rials to government revenues, and that is more than 90 percent, or more than all the taxes we collected in the years 1367 and 1368, and this is a significant amount of resources. In any case, in view of Note 32 in the Plan Law, the study that was made based on the question of to what extent these government companies really need to continue being government companies, to what extent this importance of their being government companies can be reduced, a comprehensive study was done. The method was, we defined a set of parameters, for example we said we would take the area of the company's activities as a coefficient for them, we would set a coefficient for the volume of investment, we set a coefficient for the kind of market they operate in and whether they are a monopoly or not, and we categorized the coefficients so that if their area of activity is such that it requires them to be government companies, we assigned them the number 10, and if the area of activity is such that it does not require them to be government companies, we assigned them the number zero. The method of categorization was also such that if the area of activity was selling goods and public services, this had to have a coefficient of 10. Goods and public services, or the selling of basic goods and services is important. This must be in the government sector, but if the area of activity was selling consumer goods, this was nothing and really has no importance for us to say it certainly ought to be a government company, and here we assigned zero. With regard to the kind of market, for example as another variable we said that if the market is a monopoly, in view of abuses that would take place if it went into the non-government sector, we assigned it a coefficient of 10. If the activity was a semi-monopoly it would get a five, and likewise if it was competitive it would get a zero. Likewise, according to the amount of demand and the amount of investment, we set 10 variables, and established a scale of one to 100. If a government company got a rating of 100, it would certainly have to remain a government company, and if it got a zero or even between 10 and 20, this would show it is not that important. These variables were very precisely defined. The conclusion we have now obtained is quite interesting. Of a total of about 800 companies, there were 124 rated at between zero and 10, 412 between 11 and 30, 192 between 31 and 50, 54 between 57 and 70, 47 between 71 and 80, and 10 companies between 81 and 90. In other words, if we set the cut-off point at 30, or more conservatively they are now proposing 50, and if we set the cut-off point at 50, the number is much higher, but if we set the cut-off point at 30, of a total of 800 companies more than 536 companies could easily be transferred out of the government sector, and you may be assured that in those parameters I read under area of activities and the kind of market they operate in, the amount of demand and the volume of investment and other things are such that there would be no harm to the economy of our nation and therefore one could easily make a decision and act in this area. Fortunately Note 32 has required this, meaning it said we must act in such a way that first of all the exemptions being given to these companies must be eliminated and it does not mean at all that a government company ought to have a series of special concessions not available to the others. In reality the elimination of financial exemptions is the elimination of exemption from taxes on commercial profits and customs taxes, and if we make this the basis, we could really easily say that just as I said if we make 50 the cut-off point, we could move more than 700 companies without any change occurring. For this purpose the president's office has a special commission studying the matter, and just as I said the subject of reforming the structure of the government is really a real and basic issue that you have anticipated in your own plan book, and my wish is that you follow up on this and ask the government to implement this, because for me and the minister of economic affairs and finance it is very easy for there to be a company at hand that is exempt from some of the regulations. Let them do with that company what limits me and what you have dictated to me in the Budget Law and let that lead to freedom of action, for although it is possible that there are limitations on me, my wish is that the respected deputies seriously follow up on this matter so they will certainly complete implementation of their own enactment.

It is necessary to mention that due to the volume of material in this issue we could not print the entire report from the Council of Ministers, and therefore the rest of the report from the minister of economic affairs and finance will be printed on Saturday.

Pakistan

Army Chief Asserts Importance of Self-Reliance

BK1610134690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The chief of the army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said that self-reliance is the core of sovereign existence and that no nation can stand for long on borrowed strength. Addressing officers of Quetta garrison in Quetta, the chief of the army staff pointed out that recent history is testimony to the fact that a determined nation can challenge the mightiest, taking sustenance from self-respect and proud national traditions. Afghanistan and Iran are the two recent examples of such self-reliance and struggle against the heaviest odds. Likewise, Pakistan today as a nation is firmly determined not to compromise on principles and self-interests no matter how big the cost.

General Mirza Aslam Beg said that Pakistan as a self-respecting nation will not buckle down under pressure and will not deviate from its national objectives.

Discusses Elections, Military

BK1610164090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The chief of Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said that self-reliance is the core of sovereign existence and no nation can stand for long on borrowed strength. Addressing officers of Quetta garrison in Quetta, the chief of Army Staff pointed out that recent history is testimony to the fact that a determined nation can challenge the mightiest. [passage omitted]

The chief of Army Staff said Pakistan has means and resources to face the agression from any side. He added that Pakistan's military preparations are based on the iedology that it has to fight its war by itself. This preparation is based on self-reliance and, God willing, we will defend our national interests in all conditions. He said weapons alone are not important, but the desire to lay down lives for a cause and objective is also essential. Mirza Aslam Beg said the Pakistan armed forces are fully aware of this and its resoponsbilities in this connection.

Referring to the current political situation in the country, General Mirza Aslam Beg said that we are in the midst of an electoral process and, God willing, an elected government will take over after the 24th of October this year. He said, however, some quarters have prepared a plan to take advantage of the situation to serve their own interests. He made it clear that the people of Pakistan are well-versed in democratic processes and democracy is in their blood. They do not need guidance or directives from foreign countries and those who are eying such political guidance and support for their own political objectives will be definitely rejected by the proud people of Pakistan who will exercise their right of franchise keeping in view the national interest.

The Army chief's address, which lasted over an hour, was followed by a question-answer session focusing on domestic as well as international issues like Kashmir, Afghanistan, and the Gulf having a direct bearing on Pakistan's security. As for Kashmir, he said the heightened activity in the valley and induction of large Indian forces to brutally suppress the freedom movement have posed new challenges. He said we are fully conscious of our resoponsibilities in this regard and have all the capability to thwart the nefarious designs of the enemy.

The chief of Army Staff spoke in detail about the effort being made for indigenous production of military equipment and hardware. He specially mentioned self-reliance achieved in the production of ammunition and said reliance on foreign sources in this field has fully ended. He added that military preparation is not only essential for our existence, but it is also an effective deterrent to aggression.

Government Files Two New Cases Against Bhutto

BK1710115490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Oct 17 (AFP)—The government brought two more charges against deposed prime minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday concerning a crucial no-confidence vote against her last year, court sources here said. A new court, headed by special judge Munir Amir Malik, has been constituted to try the latest charges.

She faces two counts concerning unauthorised use of aircraft and misuse of millions of dollars of secret service funds, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN said. Ms. Bhutto is already facing four charges filed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after he fired her on August 6 alleging abuse of power during her 20 months in office.

President Ishaq Khan, in his lengthy denunciation after her abrupt dismissal, accused Ms. Bhutto of buying the loyalty of MPs at the time of the no-confidence motion proposed by then opposition leader and current caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi in October last year.

The wavering MPs were whisked away without legal authorisation to the north-western hill resort of Swat in Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and air force aircraft while secret service funds were used for massive horse-trading, the president said.

The no-confidence move failed on November 1 with Ms. Bhutto surviving by a slim margin. The latest charges, filed only six days before general elections on October 24, came on top of 10 others brought by the interim government since her dismissal.

Of the 12, six are against Ms. Bhutto, one against her father in law, and the rest against members of her government. In addition her husband Asif Ali Zardari has been detained without bail in Karachi on charges of bank fraud and kidnapping. Observers here saw the new charges as having a double edged impact on the election campaign, tying her down in the courts and at the same time adding to public sympathy for her.

Government Appeals Dismissal of Case Against Badr

BK1510150090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1446 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Oct 15 (AFP)—The Pakistan government has appealed against a special court verdict rejecting misconduct charges filed against a former minister, court sources said Monday. The one-judge special tribunal, one of 11 set up by the caretaker government to punish alleged corruption under deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto, had found the charges untenable.

Jehangir Badr, ex-minister for petroleum and natural resources, had been charged with wrongfully allowing payments to a civil engineering firm in connection with two contracts. In a writ petition, the government requested the Lahore High Court to order the special tribunal to hear the case.

Court Orders Arrest of Bhutto Finance Minister

BK1410161090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 14 (AFP)—A special court here Sunday issued warrants for the arrest of Ehsanul Haq Piracha, former minister of state for finance in ousted Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto's government, official sources said.

Mr. Piracha's arrest was ordered after the special court charged him with directing a nationalised bank to grant a loan of 13 million dollars to Fauzi Ali Kazmi, a friend of Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported.

The loan was approved without any collateral security, APP said, adding that the court issued non-bailable warrants ordering the police to produce Mr. Piracha on October 28, four days after general elections. A case under the anti-corruption act has been registered against Mr. Zardari and two bank executives besides Mr. Kazmi, who was to have set up a chain of duty free shops in the country.

Mr. Zardari was arrested last week. Sources said Mr. Piracha's counsel has moved a petition against his arrest which would come up for hearing on Monday.

Zardari Petitions Court; Bhutto Prosecution Urged

BK1410015390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1803 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 13 (AFP)—The detained husband of deposed Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto, petitioned the Sindh High Court on Saturday to order the police not to hand him over to another government agency for interrogation, court sources said.

Asif Ali Zardari was remanded to police custody up to October 23 by a magistrate following his arrest here Wednesday on charges of kidnapping and extorting money from a businessman during Ms. Bhutto's premiership. His counsel, Raja Quershi, moved the petition on his behalf. The acting chief justice of Sindh, Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui, constituted a special bench comprising two high court judges to hear the petition on Sunday.

Mr. Zardari also submitted before the court that his counsel has not been allowed to see him under detention in order to seek legal instruction, and asked that the court order the authorities to allow the visits. Meanwhile, a local magistrate dismissed as premature a bail application of a former provincial minister, Agha Siraj Durrani, who has been arrested on charges of financial irregularities.

The counsel for the accused said another bail application would be made Sunday on behalf of Mr. Durrani before the sessions court. Meanwhile, a leading opponent of deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto has demanded that she be prosecuted for ordering police to fire on his unarmed supporters in Hyderabad last May.

Altaf Hussain, chief of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), told a public meeting in Hyderabad's Pucca Qila (old fort), which was scene of police firings on May 26-27, that dozens of women and children had been killed while peacefully demonstrating against the Bhutto government. He demanded that Ms. Bhutto and the former police chief be prosecuted for ordering police to fire on unarmed demonstrators.

Court Rejects Zardari Bail Application

BK1610161690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 16 (AFP)—A special court trying deposed premier Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari for bank offences dismissed his bail application here Tuesday, court sources said. Justice Fakhruddin Sheikh in his dismissal order said "I do not think it [is] a fit case for grant of bail."

He added that the case against Mr. Zardari was under investigation and that he had already been remanded in police custody up to October 23. Mr. Zardari was arrested on Wednesday on three different charges of kidnapping for ransom and financial irregularities including bank offences.

He is accused of having used his personal position as husband of the then prime minister to influence the nationalised banks to grant big loans to his friends without adequate collateral. Meanwhile, another application of Mr. Zardari for bail came up for hearing before a special court for the suppression of terrorism which is hearing the charges of abetting kidnapping and extortion. The judge adjourned the hearing to Thursday, court sources said.

Meanwhile, the same court granted permission to Ms. Bhutto to see husband Wednesday. In another case, a special tribunal resumed hearing two presidential references against Ms. Bhutto for alleged misconduct during here 20-month rule.

Ms. Bhutto, in a written statement, denied the charges of allowing the export of cotton to a foreign firm at prices below international market rates during her premiership. She described the charges against her as "baseless, illegal and malafide."

Counsel for Ms. Bhutto moved a contempt of court application before the same tribunal against Caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi for making a public reference to the sub judice case during his election campaign. The tribunal issued notice to the government counsel on the matter. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Ms. Bhutto's government August 6 on charges of abuse of power and corruption. General elections are slated for October 24.

Bhutto's Lawyer Assaulted by Unidentified Man

BK1610144690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Oct 16 (AFP)—Deposed premier Benazir Bhutto Tuesday challenged the jurisdiction of a special tribunal here as her attorney alleged he was roughed up during a break in the hearing. In two applications submitted to the court by her lawyer, Ms. Bhutto challenged the jurisdiction of the one-judge tribunal and denied the charges of misconduct levelled against her by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan told the court he was assaulted outside the bar room during a break in the hearing of a government case of alleged misconduct against Ms. Bhutto. Bar association vice-president, Malik Sultan Mahmud, informed the court that the assailant was arrested by the police.

Mr. Ahsan, chief counsel of the ousted premier, told Justice Rashid Aziz Khan that he felt insecure for himself and his client and requested him to order adequate security arrangements. The judge ordered the local police chief to examine the assailant in the presence of three lawyers nominated by Mr. Ahsan and report back to the court at the next hearing on October 20.

Ms. Bhutto, who is busy campaigning for October 24 elections, was exempted from appearing in the court. She faces charges of allotting land for a hotel project at throwaway price and wrongfully granting liquefied gas distribution agencies to favourites.

Two other cases of alleged irregularities against her are being heard by another special court in Karachi. Ms. Bhutto said in a statement that the accusations were "absolutely false and frivolous" and were designed only to "defame" her and prejudice her election campaign.

Separately, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN said police arrested a candidate of Mr. Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance. The wife of the arrested candidate, Mohammad Khar, told a press conference her husband had refused to give in to government "pressure" to withdraw from the race in favour of a nominee from the anti-Bhutto Islamic Democratic Alliance.

Ms. Bhutto was sacked by the president on August 6 on charges of corruption and abuse of power. The interim government that replaced her has opened legal proceedings against her, her husband and some of her cabinet members.

'Hundreds' Greet Bhutto in Sindh, Show Support

BK1410153590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 14 Oct 90

[By Shamimur Rahman]

[Text] Jacobabad, Pakistan, Oct 14 (AFP)—Hundreds of poor farmers roaring "Bhutto is innocent" greeted deposed Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto Sunday in her home province of Sindh where she slammed the caretaker government for harboring terrorists and drug traffickers. With only eight full days of campaigning left to go in the run-up to the October 24 elections, Ms. Bhutto was on the stomp on the dusty backroads leading from her ancestral home in Larkana to the Balochistan Province border.

"They (the caretaker government of her political rival Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi) have turned a blind eye to terrorists and drug traffickers, and are not trying to suppress them," Ms. Bhutto said. From village to village, she also accused the Jatoi government of a vilification campaign against her through the courts to try to prevent her re-election.

But most of all she promised to improve the quality of life in dirt-poor villages with no drinking water or sanitation. The poor responded by showering her with rose petals but cold shouldered local politicians of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP). She promised more jobs and schooling for the poor, better health facilities and a better life.

Sindh, a PPP stronghold, accounts for 46 of the 199 "moslem" seats to be contested in the October 24 polls, and the party is widely expected to take a majority of the seats in rural areas largely out of loyalty to her family name and the ethnic Sindhi pull. The National Assembly has another eight seats set aside for tribals and 10 for minorities such as Hindus, Parsis and Christians.

Even those opposing her concede that her dismissal by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on August 6 will have little effect on Sindh, where only the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a party of settlers from India, seems assured of at least 14 seats in the major cities of Karachi and Hyderabad. Ms. Bhutto's real test, observers here say, will come in the provinces outside Sindh.

Toughest to counter, they say, will be the opposition's playing the son of the soil" card in Northern Punjab Province, with youthful Nawaz Sharif, former Punjab chief minister. The Punjab accounts for a massive 115 seats. In the past 20 months Sindh has seen a rise in violence, kidnapping and drug trafficking, which Ms. Bhutto blames on attempts to make her appear unable to control the situation.

Police Reportedly Raid Bhutto's Seaside Villa

BK1610091490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 16 (AFP)—Police Tuesday raided the seaside villa of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here to arrest "criminals" allegedly hiding there, her lawyer said. Abdul Hafeez Lakho, who appeared before a special court trying Ms. Bhutto on misconduct during her 20 months in office, told the court that police entered her Bilawal house residence here early Tuesday morning. He immediately asked the judge for a short adjournment which was permitted.

Police conducted the raid saying they wanted to arrest criminals "hiding in Bilawal House," he said, but it was not immediately known if any arrests had been made. Ms. Bhutto is out of Karachi campaigning for the October 24 elections. Sindh's interim Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali in a statement two days ago aqlleged that Bilawal House had become a sanctuary for criminals.

Benazir Bhutto's Party Denies Her House Raided

BK1610113590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 16 (AFP)—Ousted prime minister Benazir Bhutto's party Tuesday denied a report by her lawyer that Ms. Bhutto's seaside residence here had been raided by police seeking to make criminal arrests. "There was some misunderstanding," Iqbal Yusuf, spokesman for her Pakistan People's Party said. "Police started stopping vehicles heading for Bilawal House and people got the impression a raid was on. He (Ms. Bhutto's counsel) recieved the message in court." Mr. Yusuf said no police had entered the villa.

Earlier a special court trying Ms. Bhutto on charges of misconduct during her 20 months in office had been galvanized when her lawyer, Abdul Hafiz Lakho called for a sudden adjournment. He said police were raiding Bilawal House allegedly to arrest criminals.

Journalists who rushed to the house returned quoting staff at the villa as saying everything was normal and that her lawyers had returned to the court which had been adjourned for one hour. Ms. Bhutto, who was campaigning in Sindh province, was apparently unaware of the drama.

Soviet Ambassador Calls on Senate Chairman

BK1510153590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Viktor Palovich Yakunin, the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, called on Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad in

Islamabad today and exchanged views with him on a number of international issues, including the Gulf situation. During the meeting, the Soviet envoy expressed the hope that the cooperation between the parliaments of Pakistan and the Soviet Union will further develop in the years to come and that there will be frequent exchanges of visits of parliamentarians between the two countries. He said that such exchanges of delegations provide the opportunity for bilateral consultations on national and international issues. The Soviet ambassador delivered the Soviet parliament's message on nuclear arms reduction to the Senate chairman.

Editorial Analyzes Change in U.S. Israel Policy

BK1210115890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Not Quite a Change of Heart"]

[Text] For the first time since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the United States has indicated its willingness to vote against Israel and back a UN Resolution that condemns the killing of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque on Monday, and calls for a United Nations investigation of the incident. It would appear that the outrageous act of violence against defenceless civilians by the Israeli forces was enough to jolt even US policy-makers known for their virtually complete disregard for basic human rights such as life and liberty when it comes to matters concerning Israel. Not quite. On closer scrutiny, it seems that the US is doing nothing as much as trying to bail out its old ally Israel by taking the sting out of the proposed UN Resolution and rendering it ineffective.

The US is blocking by virtue of its veto power a Resolution put forward by Yemen, Malaysia, Columbia and Cuba that, apart from condemning Israeli violence, calls for the sending of a Commission by the Security Council to investigate the incident. While the US-sponsored draft seeks to avert putting the onus for precipitating the incident on Israel, condemning only the "excessive Israeli response," it also wants to substitute the proposal for an Investigative Commission sent by the Security Council—and reporting to it—by one for a representative of the UN Secretary General who would investigate and report back to the latter only. Obviously, the aim is to minimise the impact of findings potentially damaging to Israel.

Clearly then, the US is not interested in putting pressure on Israel to review its policy towards the Palestinians. A more likely explanation for the apparent change of heart seems to be the special situation in which the US currently finds itself vis-a-vis the Middle East. Having sought, with a certain degree of success, widespread international backing for its massive military buildup in the area, ostensibly to keep an aggressive Iraq in check, the US—if it were to continue with its usual policy of providing outright and blanket support to Israel—risks its duplicity and selective moral posturing in the context of the Middle East being shown up in too stark a light. Meanwhile, Israel, knowing that, rhetoric aside, it can count on the US to overlook its excesses, has sounded an unrepentant note in the wake of the killings, making it clear that it has no intention of allowing any delegation to conduct investigation. The Arab response to this latest Israeli outrage is, of course, critical. Obviously, all possible efforts must be made to present a united front. Surely, it is time that all concerned realised that the Palestinian issue is very much a part of the crisis in the Middle East, if not central to it, and efforts for its resolution should hardly be made conditional on other issues—no matter how pressing for this or that State—being sorted out first.

Infighting Kills Six Mujahidin, Injures Two

BK1310131490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Oct 90 p 10

[Text] Quetta, Oct 12—The infighting among the Afghan Mujahidin is now touching the sorroundings of Quetta City. On Friday night six Mujahidin were killed while two others injured when Hezb-e Eslami's Nabi Muhammadi Group, allegedly stormed the residence of Habibullah, a leader of Hezb-e Eslami, Hekmatyar Group, in Pashtunabad, where some other Mujahidin were also staying.

The attackers after entering the house, opened indiscriminate firing, which resulted in the death of five immates, on spot, while two others were injured seriously. An attacker Baz Mohammad was also killed in cross firing.

Sri Lanka

Government Said Responsible for Civilian Deaths

BK1310010490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1854 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Geneva, Oct 12 (AFP)—The Geneva-based World Council of Churches (WCC) released a report on Friday denouncing the brutal treatment of the "innocent Tamil population" by government forces in Sri Lanka, and claiming that more than 3,000 civilians have been killed in the last four months. Officials of the WCC asked that the author of the report, a church dignitary from Sri Lanka, not be identified for fears of threats against his life.

The three-page report stressed that contrary to government claims, military actions in the eastern and northern provinces have been directed not only against the rebel Tiger forces (LTTE) but also against civilians, through "incessant bombardments of civic and town centers." According to the report, 3,324 "innocent civilians" have been killed since June 11, the largest number—1,190—in the Amparai District, and over 17,000 wounded. Nearly 900 people have been arrested and are still missing.

There are now more than one million refugees in the eastern and northern provinces and 115,000 people have fled to India. A total 900,000 people have become jobless as a result of a total blockade of fuel, which has paralyzed all public transport and work on agricultural farms. Electricity has also been cut off to most of the northern province and in particular in the Jaffna District, the report said.

"As a result", the community has been badly affected over food supplies," it added. Relief provided by humanitarian organizations has only trickled through. In the last three months, only a few tons have gotten through which is "not enough even for two week's supply," the report said. It also mentioned a "desperate" lack of drugs and medical supplies, and a great shortage of cash due to the closure of banks.

Stressing that the "innocent Tamil population is being brutally treated," the report called for an urgent ceasefire and the resumption of negotiations. It also said there can be "no justification for the aerial attacks unless the government is bent on genocide."

Clashes Continue Between Army, LTTE Rebels

Five Civilians Killed

BK1310075390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 13 (AFP)—At least five civilians died after being caught in a heavy exchange of fire in eastern Sri Lanka between government troops and Tamil guerrillas, officials said Saturday, adding that five rebels also died. The killings occurred late Friday as rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) tried to rescue seven colleagues captured by police commandos in Akkaraipattu in the eastern district of Ampara, military officials here said.

An official said that heavily armed LTTE cadres ambushed a military vehicle carrying crack commandos of the special task force (STF) and LTTE prisoners in the Attapallam Area in Akkaraipattu as they were moving towards a rebel camp. During the confrontation the commandos shot dead five of the prisoners when they made a bid to escape, but the other two got away, the official said, adding that casualties among the attacking LTTE force were not known.

The official said that the bodies of the five civilians were found during a subsequent search of the area by the STF, which has been conducting a series of successful raids on guerrilla bases in the east. An army officer here said the prisoners had agreed to take the STF, comprising members of the police, to an LTTE hideout built inside thick jungles in Akkaraipattu.

Akkaraipattu is a Moslem-majority area in Ampara, which has seen some of the worst violence in the conflict that erupted June 11 between government troops and LTTE guerrillas. Hundreds of civilians, mainly from Ampara and the neighbouring district of Batticaloa, have died in the fighting that has so far claimed more than 4,300 lives, according to unofficial and official sources.

The LTTE has vowed to set up a separate nation called Eelam in the northeast, home to Sri Lanka's minority Tamils who have been agitating for greater autonomy from the centre. The Moslems, also a minority, live in large numbers in Batticaloa and Ampara alongside the Tamils but relations between the two communities have been strained since the killing of more than 200 Moslems in August by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels.

On Thursday, the guerrillas hacked to death nine Moslem civilians and dumped their bodies by the roadside in Pottuvil in the Ampara District. The Sri Lanka Moslem Congress, a political party that draws its support from Moslems in the east, has urged Colombo to strengthen the community's security there because of reports that rebels were preparing more attacks on Moslems.

Meanwhile, a military spokesman here said that a soldier was killed and two others wounded when a road-clearing army patrol was fired upon by LTTE militants in Batticaloa. He said the troops retaliated and repulsed the attack Friday in the Vantharamulai area but could not confirm LTTE casualties. Two soldiers were also wounded when guerrillas opened fire on a security force patrol in northern Vavuniya, the spokesman added. No details were available.

Rebels Kill 11 Soldiers in East

BK1610131090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 16 (AFP)—Tamil separatist guerrillas killed at least 11 soldiers in eastern Sri Lanka as Colombo re-imposed a curfew on the rebel-controlled northern Jaffna peninsula, officials and militants said Tuesday. Military sources here said seven soldiers died Monday in two separate incidents in eastern Trincomalee district but the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) claimed its fighters killed 11 troops.

Colombo also re-imposed an indefinite curfew on the Jaffna peninsula early Tuesday, hours after the tigers attacked Palaly airforce base with mortars injuring four airmen, military officials said. In a statement received here from the group's London office, the LTTE said its cadres exploded a landmine under a tractor carrying seven army soldiers from Soorankal Army Camp in coastal Trincomalee district.

"The tractor was completely destroyed and all seven soldiers were killed," the LTTE said, adding that army reinforcements that rushed to the area were driven back by the guerrillas. Four more army soldiers died when LTTE fighters ambushed a military jeep travelling through Kaddaiparichchan in the same district, the statement said.

A military official earlier denied there had been any major incident in the northeast on Monday. In the past few weeks, the guerrillas have stepped up attacks on government troops in remote areas in the sprawling eastern province.

Shortly after fighting broke out between troops and the guerrillas in June, a massive military thrust in the east drove hundreds of young LTTE cadres from the towns into thick jungle which they now use to stage their ambushes. Meanwhile, military sources said without elaborating that operations against the tigers had resumed on Jaffna peninsula.

The curfew which came into effect 6:00 A.M. (0030 GMT) also covered the nearby islands of Kayts, Mandativu and Pungudutivu, officials said. "Civilians in these areas should not move out of their homes until further notice," the state-owned Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation said.

Due to the LTTE's dominance in the northern peninsula, Colombo can only impose the curfew effectively from the air, bombing or strafing any moving target during curfew hours. It was not clear whether a fresh offensive had began on Jaffna peninsula where the guerrilla leaders live or if the curfew was a temporary measure to bomb rebel positions in and around Jaffna town.

The nearest the Army came to attacking Jaffna town was during last month's operation to break the blockade on Jaffna Fort Army Camp just outside the city. But the rebels kept government troops at bay until Colombo decided to evacuate the fort on September 26, leading to a lull in army operations in Jaffna.

The on-off curfew imposed by the army in Jaffna was last lifted October 1 when the military began to scale down its activity in the north. The LTTE charged Monday that indiscriminate bombing of Jaffna was continuing. Officials said the Airforce had been going after rebel targets on the peninsula and a curfew was declared during operations to avoid civilian casualties.

The LTTE alleged the airforce bombed a refugee camp based inside a school near the Manthikai General Hospital, and the Point Pedro, Chavakachcheri and Udupiddy markets in the peninsula. The airforce "planned these sorties on targets which should never be bombed according to international standards of conduct even during a war," the guerrillas said.

"The cowardly bombing of the Point Pedro, Chavakachcheri and Udupiddy markets where large numbers of civilians congregate indicates very clearly the genocidal nature of these attacks," they added. More than 4,300 people have been killed in violence in the Tamil-majority northeast, according to unofficial and official sources.

Operation Launched Against Rebels

BK1710092590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0847 GMT 17 Oct 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Provoked by mortar attacks on the Palali airbase the security forces have launched a full-scale operation against Tiger [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in the north, the 'DAILY OBSERVER' reports.

This was confirmed by the army commander Hamilton Wanasinghe. This morning, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, defence state minister, too said that the security forces had begun full-scale operations against Tiger terrorists.

An indefinite curfew has been clamped in Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts with effect from 0600 hours (local time) today. Army commander Hamilton Wanasinghe said the offensive was started after Tigers launched mortar attacks on the Palali airbase. He said the forces would push forward up to Elephant Pass in order to ensure the safety of the Palali airbase. Attacks would be made both from the air and the ground for this purpose. All civilians have been asked to stay clear of this area, he said.

LTTE Headquarters Destroyed

BK1710092990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0821 GMT 17 Oct 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The headquarters of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] based in the outskirts of Jaffna was destroyed Sunday [14 October] by the security forces. Reports reaching LANKAPUVATH from Jaffna state that Airforce fighter planes and helicopter gunships demolished the LTTE base at Kondavil in a lighting dawn raid.

Several LTTE activists are believed killed and large quantities of explosives destroyed. Meanwhile, the security forces camp at Elephant Pass came under sporadic fire by the LTTE yesterday. The forces had retaliated. No casualties have been reported, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. They also said that Sri Lankan forces attacked a terrorist boat off the Jaffna coast. The boat had disappeared. The fate of the boat and its occupants are not known.

At Poonthottam, LTTE terrorists had attacked a security forces roadblock. The security forces retaliated killing one terrorist. In Vasavilan, four security forces personnel were wounded in an LTTE attack.